

## George Washington Papers, Series 3, Subseries 3B, Varick Transcripts, Letterbook 7

### To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, November 1, 1778.

Sir: I received yesterday, your favor of the 28th. Ulto, and was sorry to find you were in want of flour. I had a Letter written immediately to the Commissary upon the occasion, and from his account, I hope you have obtained a supply before this. He says three or four parcels had gone from Danbury for Hartford in the course of the Week, and that more was on the road from Fredericksburgh. Besides these supplies, he adds, that he had four Hundred barrels at Fish Kill for Eastern purposes, of which he had notified the Quarter Master General, who would put them in motion without loss of time. As to seizing flour belonging to private persons, I have no authority for the purpose. When the wants of the Army absolutely compell the measure, it must be justified on the principle of necessity.

The inclosed Extracts from Lord Stirling's Letters of the 29th. and 30th. Ulto. contain my latest advices, respecting the movements of the Enemy. I have similar intelligence from other Quarters, and it would seem, that a few days must certainly point out the part, the Enemy mean to take. I am  
etc.<sup>77</sup>

[N.Y.H.S.]

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77. In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

### To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters Fredericksburg, November 1, 1778.

My Lord: I have been favd. with yours of the 26th containing your opinion upon the cantonment of the Army, and of the 29th. and 30th. with a variety of information. Matters seem drawing very near a Crisis, and a few days will in all probability determine our doubts. In a letter which I reed. from General Scott last evening, he mentions, that a report prevailed in New York that Jamaica was taken and that Rum and Molasses had rose to a very extravagant price in consequence. If West India produce has taken a sudden start, may it not be owing to the purchases of speculators, upon a prospect of an evacuation. They must be sensible of the high prices of sugars, liquors &ca. among us, and the certainty of making a vast profit should they be able to sell them to the Country at large.

It is not however impossible but another stroke may have been struck by France in the West Indies, and is a fact worth making particular inquiry after. I am etc.

P.S. Could you procure me one of Dollonds best pocket telescopes from New York you would oblige me. I will furnish the Amt. in hard Money.<sup>78</sup>

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78. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN PATERSON**

Fredericksburg, November 1, 1778.

Sir: I received your favor of the 28th. Ulto. I do not mean to place your Brigade on a different footing from the rest of the Massachusetts or the other Troops in the Army. In my Letter to General Gates of the 27th. I advised him according to the information I had received, and which I was then and am now told was derived from yourself, but a little time before the Army left the White plains, that you had procured Cloathing for your Brigade, by particular applications, from a different channel. This I also understood you had not delivered, and that you had determined when at the plains to keep it for some time; and therefore I added, that where this was the case, there could not be a double supply, by permitting another draught from the Stock at Springfield. Supposing the above facts to be true, and on which I request your Answer, my restrictions were certainly right as being founded in principles of equal justice, and conformable to the general system of conduct used thro the whole line. Your Brigade was more particularly mentioned than any other Troops because the information respecting it was more particular; but the restrictions was designed to extend to all Troops in the same predicament. If you have Cloathing which has not been delivered, you may return it to the

Cloathier if you choose it, and draw from the Stock in his hands; or if it has been delivered, you may still give it in, and obtain from him a new supply. All I had or have in view, is to put the whole Army in the same situation. I am etc.<sup>79</sup>

### **To CHEVALIER LA NEUVILLE**

November 1, 1778.

Sir: I just now received your favor of the 30th Ulto, and am exceedingly obliged by the very polite terms, in which you are pleased to express yourself. As I applaud your zeal and the motives, which brought you to this Country, I cannot but regret, that the circumstances of the Army did not afford you more satisfactory opportunities of serving. I am persuaded if they had, you would have improved them in a manner, that would have done honor to yourself, and justified the confidence reposed in you.

I shall consider myself happy in seeing you before your departure, and am, etc.<sup>80</sup>

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79. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison

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80. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

### **To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 2, 1778.

Dear Sir: General Gates having been ordered by Congress to repair to Boston and take the command of the Eastern district; I have thought it best, that you should proceed to Hartford and take the command of the division late General Gates, consisting of Poor's, Patterson's and Learned's brigades. This you will, therefore, be pleased to do without delay. The standing order for that division is that it is to remain at Hartford 'till further orders from me, or till the arrival of the enemy's fleet to the Eastward shall demonstrate that they intend a serious land operation that way; in which case you are to advance and give me instant notice of it, as it is my intention on such an event to proceed immediately Eastward.

You will communicate to General Muhlenberg<sup>83</sup> on whom the command of your division will now devolve, whatever instructions you have received from me respecting it, and whatever other information may be necessary for his government.<sup>84</sup> I am, etc.<sup>85</sup>

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83. On this same day (November 2) Washington wrote briefly to Brig. Gen. Peter Muhlenberg that Gates had gone to command at Boston and that Putnam would replace him at Hartford.

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84. On November 7 Washington sent Putnam brief, but specific, instructions to hold the troops at Hartford ready to march at the shortest notice: "But as putting the troops in motion, in our present

condition of supplies, is a matter of serious consideration you will not assume this measure without the information which you may receive from Genl Gates, is clear and decided.”

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85. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

## To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, November 3, 1778.

Sir: In my Letter of the 29th. Ultio. I transmitted you a Copy of a Resolution of Congress, directing the removal of the Convention Troops; a Copy similar to which had been forwarded before to General Heath. By a Letter from him of the 28th, he asks whether it may not be best for their Heavy baggage to be sent by Water. It appears to me that it will, and it may be water-borne, as far as the falls of James river. If the Troops have flag Vessels of their own at Boston, or the Officers choose to provide 'em themselves, the baggage, except such as they may judge necessary to take with them, had better go in them; If otherwise, you will be pleased to direct proper ones to be provided for the occasion. In either case, it will be right for General Philips or Generals Riedsel and Hamilton, as

well as yourself to sign and countersign as circumstances may require, the passports which it will be necessary to furnish. I should also suppose it advisable for One or more of their own Quarter Masters to go with the Vessels. I have also written to General Heath upon the subject, in case this should find you still at Hartford.

I am this minute favoured with your Letter of the 28th. and regret the captivity of so good an Officer as Captain Goodall,<sup>90</sup> but I cannot direct the Commissary to give him the preference that you request. There are many other Officers of merit prisoners, who have experienced a much longer confinement. Were I to postpone their releasement, I should subject myself, at least, to their complaints, and to a charge of partiality. It has been a rule with me, which has never been deviated from by my order or consent in a single instance, to have prisoners exchanged, both Officers and privates, according to the priority of their capture, as far as the circumstances of rank and number would apply; and this appears to me to be founded in principles of equal justice and the only one that will or can give general satisfaction. I am etc.<sup>91</sup>

[N.Y.H.S.]

## To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, November 3, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have been favoured with your several

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90. Capt. Nathan Goodale, of the Fifth Massachusetts Regiment. He had been wounded and taken prisoner at Kingsbridge, N. Y., Aug. 30, 1778; was exchanged in October, 1780; transferred to the First Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783; served to November of that year.

"His Excellency requests you will, in the first flag boat from New York, forward the baggage belonging to Capt. Goodale."— *McHenry to Lord Stirling*, Nov. 3, 1778. McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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91. In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

Letters of the 23d, 26th. and 28th. Ult., the first and last of which came to hand last night and this morning.

On the 29th. I wrote you of the difficulties that attend the procuring of flour. The Commissary I am persuaded, does not leave a step untried to obtain supplies; but it will be at least, immensely difficult to do it The loss of the Biscuit was an event foreseen by many and what might be reasonably expected. The Enemy did not intercept any of our Convoys of provisions, while they were in Jersey as you had heard.

With respect to the removal of the Convention troops, the Resolution of Congress which was transmitted you, requires the measure and points out the only condition, on which they could have remained. I was nothing more than a mere vehicle, an Instrument in forwarding of it, that it might have the intended operation. It will be certainly best for their baggage to go by Water into James River, from whence it may be transported to the Falls and from thence to the places where the Troops are to quarter.

If they have flag Vessels of their own at Boston, or choose to provide them, the Baggage had better go in them; If otherwise, you will direct proper Ones to be provided for the occasion. In either case, it will be prudent for you and General Philips, or Generals Riedsel and Hamilton, to sign the passports, which it will be necessary to furnish. I should also suppose it adviseable, for one or more of their

own Quarter Masters to go with the Vessels. I am etc.

P.S. My Letter of the 29th. inclosed a Copy of a Resolve of Congress appointing General Gates to command in the Eastern district. I transmitted him a Copy of the Resolution directing the removal of the Convention Troops, and write him by this conveyance upon the subject of their baggage, in case he should be at Boston.<sup>92</sup>

[MS.H.S.]

**To MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 3, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have your favr. of the 31st. Ulto. inclosing Major Talbots Account of the capture of the Schooner Pigott.<sup>93</sup> It was really a well concerted plan and gallantly executed. Be pleased to present my approbation and thanks to the Major, his Officers and Men.<sup>94</sup> The enemy's fleet consisting of 150 sail of transports lay at the Hook the 31st. Ulto. It is the general opinion that the evacuation of New York will be total; but I cannot say I have had sufficient evidence to convince me that it will be so.

I sent a Letter for the Marquis de la Fayette to your care about the beginning of October. Be pleased to say whether it reached your hands, and whether it was delivered to the Marquis before he left Boston or Providence.

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92. In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

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93. Neither Sullivan's letter of October 31 nor Talbot's account are found in the *Washington Papers*.

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94. Maj. Silas Talbot, of the First Rhode Island regiment, on October 24 in the sloop *Hawke* captured the schooner *Pigot* in the eastern channel of Narragansett Bay. For this exploit he was praised by Congress and promoted to lieutenant colonel by a resolve of Nov. 14, 1778. Talbot had been twice wounded in action previous to this and was made a captain in the Continental Navy in September, 1779; captured several prizes and was captured by the British in 1780; exchanged in 1781; served to close of the war.

I am etc.

P.S. I have just heard that nine ships and a Brig left the Hook a day or two ago, said by a deserter to be bound to Rhode Island.<sup>95</sup>

[N.H.H.S.]

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95. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On November 3, Washington directed in brief notes to Cols. Henry Jackson and John Crane that the resignations be accepted of Lieut. John Jackson and Ensign William Barber, of Jackson's Additional Continental regiment, and Lieut. [Zaccheus] Dunnell, of the Third Continental Artillery. The drafts of these letters are in the *Washington Papers*.

#### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES SCOTT**

Head Quarters, November 5, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have yours of yesterdays date, with its several inclosures to acknowledge; and those of the 2d. Inst. and the 31st. Ulto.

It is not my desire to detain you longer than the time necessary for making the proper communications to the Officer who is next in command, and who will succeed you till I may find it proper to make another arrangement. You will therefore open to him the train of obtaining intelligence, the persons you have employed, and every circumstance which you think may lead him to conduct this particular duty with utmost secrecy, latitude, and precision. I could wish however that you may have yourself the satisfaction of completing the present command in the possession of New York.

I have ordered Colonel Bland's Regiment to take another situation, and instructed the Colonel on this subject. I am, etc.

P.S. You will please forward the letters for New York immediately by flag.<sup>3</sup>

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3. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

#### **To COLONEL THEODORICK BLAND**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 5, 1778.

Dear Sir: Congress having determined to remove the Troops of the Convention from the neighbourhood of Boston to Charlottesville in Albemarle County Virginia, an Officer of Rank and prudence will be necessary to regulate and conduct

their march. I must desire you to undertake this duty. The first division of the troops was to have marched off yesterday, and will be followed by four others, at proper intervals. I would wish you to lose no time in coming up here, as the sooner you set out to meet them, the better. I intend your Regiment shall go immediately into Winter Quarters, I have not determined upon the place but it will be either in Frederick Town Maryland or Winchester in Virginia. You will therefore put them upon their march, with their Baggage, by the most direct Route to Frederick Town. When the Regiment has arrived at the place of Cantonment, I have no objection to granting Furloughs for the Winter to those men whose times of service are near expiring and who will reinlist upon such terms. I am told Major Jameson would have particular influence in reengaging the Men, otherwise I should imagine he would be able to give you very great assistance in conducting the march of the troops. If you think Lt. Colo. Temple would answer the purpose as well as the Major, he may proceed with the Regt. and the Major come up with you, otherwise he may go on. Be pleased to bring up a subaltern Officer with you, who may follow the Regiment with particular orders for the place of Cantonment &ca. Should any of the Men of Colo. Baylors Regt. be upon the lines, you are to march them with your Regiment until you cross the North River and then direct them to repair to Bristol in Pennsylvania, where the Regt. is assembled.<sup>4</sup> I am &ca.<sup>5</sup>

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4. On this same day (November 5) Washington also wrote a brief note to Maj, William Washington, of the Fourth Continental Dragoons, ordering him, contingently, to Bristol to take command of Baylor's Dragoons and march them into winter quarters, This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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5. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

## **To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 6, 1778.

Sir: I am led to believe, by a letter from Major Genl. Phillips,<sup>10</sup> that he may not, in consequence of the late Resolve of Congress, have recd. orders to remove to Virginia with the Convention Troops. He



had been for some time past, for particular reasons, confined to the limits of his House and Garden by Genl. Heath, who informs me that he

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10. General Phillips had requested that Lieut. George Preston Vallancy, of the 62d Foot, be permitted to go to New York for clothing for the Convention troops, and the subsequent correspondence had resulted in Phillips being confined to quarters on account of the tone of his letters.

received the approbation of Congress for so doing, and upon requesting the opinion of the president how long he should continue these restrictions, he recd. the following answer on the 13th Septr. "I apprehend Congress conclude that you will continue in force your order respecting Maj. Genl. Phillips until he shall have made such concessions as shall be satisfactory to your own honor as commanding Officer of a department in the service of the United States." By a letter from Genl. Heath himself, he seems to doubt the propriety of Genl. Phillips's removal, untill the terms mentioned in the president's opinion have been complied with: But as the Resolve for the march of the troops is general and subsequent to the opinion above cited, I think it may be inferred that Genl. Phillips is included, and that if he should not have left Cambridge, that he be permitted and directed to follow the Troops. I am &ca.<sup>11</sup>

[N.Y.H.S.]

## **To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 6, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have your favor of 30th ulto. by Captn. Master, who waits in this Neighbourhood until he can hear from New York, having written to Sir Henry Clinton in order to effect his exchange. A Resolve of Congress lately passed put it out of my power to

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11. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

indulge his wish of going in himself.

From part of Genl. Phillips's letter I am led to believe....<sup>12</sup>

I have mentioned this matter to Genl. Gates, upon whom the Command at Boston has by this time developed, that if Genl. Phillips should have remained behind, he may be directed to follow the Troops.

I thank you for your caution in concealing the route<sup>13</sup> from the officers of the Convention, altho', in the present situation of the Enemy's affairs, I do not think any danger is to be apprehended. I am &ca.<sup>14</sup>

[MS.H.S.]

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12. The omitted portion is the same in sense, though not in words, as that in Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates, the same date as this letter, *q. v.*

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13. In a memorandum, dated Nov. 5, 1778, by Royal Flint, the route of the Convention troops from Springfield, Mass., to Fishkill, N.Y., is given as Enfield, Suffield, Simsbury, New Hartford, Norfolk, Canaan, Sharon, Beekmans Patent, and Fishkill. This memorandum is in the *Washington Papers*.

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14. In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

## **To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL**

Head Quarters, November 8, 1778.

Dear Sir: As I am obliged to go from Head Quarters this morning on business of consequence, I am under the necessity of giving a very short answer to your Letter of the 3d. Inst. which was only presented to me just now.

Your reasoning as to the improbability of the Enemy's operating to the Eastward was very strong, and your views of the difficulties that would attend the quartering of the Whole Army on this side the North River, are certainly well founded and coincide much with my own.

I think Colo. Putnam had better send for the Cloathing of his Regiment, as the want of it tho' but a very short time may be attended with bad consequences to the Men. With respect to furloughs to privates, I have granted none, and it is contrary to my intention that any should be given, till matters are more decided and some general system adopted for the purpose. I will take into consideration the mending of the Roads which you mention. If you have not moved towards Woodbury, you

may as well remain where you are if you can do it with any conveniency, as a few days must point conclusively to the post your Troops must take.<sup>21</sup>

You will give General Nixon permission to visit his family. I

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21. At this point the draft has: "If General Parsons or General Huntington is returned," which phrase appears to have been omitted from the letter as sent.

mention no time for his absence, being persuaded he will make it as short as he can, as other Officers will have occasion for a like indulgence.

If the Troops are ordered to move to the Westward, I shall not have the smallest objection to your visiting Mrs. McDougall, or if from her indisposition, for which I am extremely sorry, you prefer going now, it will be perfectly agreeable to me. As to myself, I had rather you should go immediately than wait the event of the Troops marching.

The proceedings of the Court Martial cannot have my attention till I return.

On the 3d. in the Morning a fleet of 108 sail put to Sea with Troops on board, and there are accounts, how authentic I cannot determine, that there are other movements on foot or appearances that indicate them. I am etc.<sup>22</sup>

## **To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON**

Head Quarters, November 8, 1778.

Dear Sir: I am informed by Genl. Scott that some boatmen, belonging to your brigade who were employed by

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22. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

Lieutt. Brewster<sup>23</sup> in navigating from the main to Long Island, have been remanded to their Regiments, in consequence of which a service of a particular nature is very much impeded if not intirely stopped.<sup>24</sup> The names of the men Gen. Scott tells me are David Dickinson, Fochanah

Hawkins, Benja. Dickinson, Jonathan Kinner and Joshua Davis. I beg that you will order them back to their late duty under a careful and attentive sergeant. I am &ca.<sup>25</sup>

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES SCOTT**

Head Quarters, November 8, 1778.

Dear Sir: I received your favor of the 7th. with its inclosure last night thro' the hands of Cornet Wells<sup>26</sup> with whom it was sent.

I think you had better advise the person who communicates to withhold his name from his letters or else to assume a false signature. But I do not see the necessity of any name so long as the writing is known by the parties.<sup>27</sup>

The letter which accompanies this will procure the stay of the men employed in navigating to and from Long Island. I am etc.<sup>28</sup>

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23. Lieut. Caleb Brewster, of the Second Continental Artillery.

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24. This service was an armed whaleboat, commanded by Lieutenant Brewster, which brought spy communications from Long Island to Connecticut.

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25. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

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26. Cornet James Wells, of the Second Continental Dragoons. He was promoted to lieutenant in June, 1779.

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27. On November 9 Scott again wrote to Washington: "The letter which I sent you by Cornet Wills was from Sir, John Bolton the person whom Majr. Talmadge Recommended To Your Excellency Some time ago. there will be no Dainger of his being discovered. I do not know his Propper Name my self, for neither of those are." (John Bolton was the name assumed by Tallmadge in managing the secret correspondence.) Scott's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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28. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

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**To COLONEL WILLIAM MALCOM**

Head Quarters, November 8, 1778.

Sir: I received yours of the 5th. inclosing a weekly Return of the Garrison.

If you will make a Return of your Regiment and send an Officer up to this place he can have compleat suits of Uniform, Shoes and Stockings and a proportion of Hatts and Blankets. Let your Return specify the exact number of the two latter Articles already in the Regiment. There are no Shirts at this time in the Store, but they are daily expected. The Uniforms are Blue and Red and Brown and Red, either of which you may have.

You may, if you think it is proper, put all things in readiness to take up the Chain and Boom. I do not think there is any danger of a Visit from the Enemy this Fall, but still there is no need of running any Risque by taking it up before there is a necessity for it. I am &ca.<sup>29</sup>

**To COLONEL THEODORICK BLAND**

Head Quarters, November 8, 1778.

Sir: You are hereby appointed to superintend

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29. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

the removal of the convention troops from the State of Massachusetts to Charlottesville in Virginia. You will therefore proceed immediately on the shortest route to Enfield, or to where the first division of the troops may have arrived, and announce yourself to the Officer commanding. You will then dispatch Major Jamison, who is directed to assist you in the execution of this duty, to the rear of the troops, to see that the necessary provisions and arrangements are made for the intermediate and successive divisions.

A proper escort of Militia from the State of Massachusetts is to attend the troops to Enfield, at which place they will be relieved by the militia of Connecticut, previous notice being given to have them in readiness. You will take care not to dismiss the old guard till relieved by the new. The Militia of

Connecticut are to proceed as far as the North River where they will either be relieved by a guard of Continental troops, or New York militia.

During the march you will have respect to the quarter Masters who are appointed to attend the troops and see that their halting places are convenient for cover and accommodation. You will also have regard to the Commissaries, so that good provisions be distributed and at the proper times.

You will accommodate the stages of march to the state of the weather, the condition of the troops, and the nature of the country through which they travel.

You will attend to the complaints which may  
arise and obviate them as far as possible.

The annexed route will bring the Troops as far on in their march as Fish Kills. You will then be furnished with a new route for your direction thro' the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and to their place of destination in Virginia.

As soon as you meet the first division of the troops it will be necessary for you to give me notice, that I may form a judgement of the time at which they may arrive at the North river.<sup>30</sup>

#### **To LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN TEMPLE**

Head Quarters at Fredericksburgh, November 8, 1778.

Sir: Colonel Bland having been ordered upon another Duty, you will take the command of the 1st. Regt. of Dragoons and march them immediately by the shortest Route to Winchester in Virginia, at which place they are to be quartered for the Winter. You will collect and carry with you all the Men, Horses and Accoutrements belonging to the Regt.

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30. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. Royal Flint's memorandum of route for the Convention troops is copied at the bottom of the page. (See Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. William Heath, Nov. 6, 1778, *ante*.)

When you have passed the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry you will send the Regiment forward under the command of the senior Officer and proceed yourself to Philadelphia. Upon your arrival there you are to wait upon the Board of War and inform them, that the present terms of enlistment of the greater

part of the men are near expiring, and that you have good Reason to suppose that many of them will reinlist upon being allowed a Furlough for the Winter to visit their Friends. Inform them also of the Value of the Men who compose the Regiment, who should not be lost for want of the indulgence they require. If the Board approve the plan you will apply to them for instructions and Money to pay the new Bounty.

You will at any Rate have a number more Horses than Men during the Winter, you must therefore direct the men that remain to take care of as many as they conveniently can, and quarter the remainder upon the neighbouring Farmers.

You will make use of all possible means to have the Horses put in good order and to have the accoutrements repaired.

You will constantly, while you have the command of the Regiment see that a sufficient number of Officers remain with the Regiment to superintend the Men and Horses.

After you have arrived at Winchester and informed yourself of the number of Men who will reinlist, be pleased to make me a Return of them and of the state of the Regt. in other particulars.<sup>31</sup>

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31. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

## **To COUNT PULASKI**

Poughkeepsie, November 10, 1778.

Sir: Your favr. of the 6th. was delivered to me

at Fishkill by Mr. Gerard. I am sorry your indisposition deprived me of the pleasure of seeing yourself.

Upon consulting Govr. Clinton, of the State of New York, upon a position, in which your Corps can be employed to advantage, and at the same time be plentifully subsisted in the Article of Forage, he advises the Minisink settlement upon Delaware. You will therefore be pleased to march immediately for that place, and take your Station as near Cole's Fort as you conveniently can. Let your Cavalry and Infantry be quartered as near together as possible, that you may, in case the Indian Enemy make any attempt upon the settlement, draw your force quickly together. I must beg you to make use of all means to keep your Corps from marauding or in any way distressing the Inhabitants, who will

cheerfully contribute every thing to your support if properly demanded. There are two Gentlemen of particular influence in that Country, Mr. Depui<sup>32</sup> and Mr. Van Camp, who will assist you very much in procuring Forage and other necessaries. I am &ca.<sup>33</sup>

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32. Benjamin Dupuy (Depui, De Puy), of Minisink, and Isaac(?) Van Camp, of Albany County, N. Y.

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33. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On November 10 Washington wrote to Col. Philip Van Cortlandt countermanding the order to march his regiment to Minisink: "If you should have marched, you may return. When you have fixed upon a position, be pleased to inform me of it, that I may know where to address any future orders," This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

Count Pulaski recommended Count Kolkowski (Kotkowski) to Washington as a brave and useful officer, who he wished in his legion. Washington, in turn, because of the recommendatory letters from Franklin and Deane, introduced Kolkowski to Congress in a brief letter, dated Nov. 18, 1778, which is in the *Washington Papers*. Congress commissioned Kolkowski a captain in the legion Dec. 10, 1778. (See Washington's letter to Count Pulaski, Nov. 24, 1778, *post.*)

## **To BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND**

Head Quarters, November 12, 1778.

Sir: I have to acknowledge your letter of the 29th.

Ulto., with its several inclosures.

The two militia companies, who were under General Stark's discharge, and which you mention on the cover of your letter to have left you, will necessarily forfeit, by this step the State bounty, as appears by its own resolutions of June the 10th, 1778.

Cloathing has been already sent on to Aldens, Butlers and Poseys corps. When the other troops are mustered, which are still unprovided and exact and accurate returns made out, you will then order officers down for the purpose of procuring them the necessary supplies. The return should correspond with their wants and include both their serviceable and unserviceable articles of cloathing. I am &ca.<sup>61</sup>



**To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM BUTLER**

Head Quarters, November 12, 1778.

Sir: Your letter of the 28th. Ult. was duly communicated by Doctor Jones.<sup>62</sup>

The arrangements for the winter being not yet complete your regiment will wait further orders.<sup>63</sup> In the mean time I would be glad to know in what time you

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61. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The original letter, which was sold at auction in 1893, contained the following: "P.S. You will be pleased to forward the inclosed to Colo. Butler."

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62. James Jones, surgeon's mate, of the Sixth Pennsylvania Regiment.

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63. Butler was then at Schoharie, N. Y.

think your regiment and Colo. Morgan's corps could move to Wyoming; you will also mention the difficulties and the best course for such a march at this season of the year.

In case I find it expedient to remove these two corps to Wyoming, your presence will be necessary during the march. But when this is over, or if it should not take place I have no objection to complying with your visiting your family. This will be ascertained by the time I have your answer, when I shall write you further on this subject.

Lieutt. Dover<sup>64</sup> of your Regt. has signified his desire on the 2d. instant, to resign, you will be pleased to report whether Mr. Dover has any accounts with the publick unsettled. I am &ca.<sup>65</sup>

**To LIEUTENANT COLONEL PIERRE REGNIER**

Head Quarters, November 13, 1778.

Sir: I received your letter of the 7th. Inst. with the inclosed representation of your officers.<sup>68</sup>

When a general plan of arrangement is once established for wintering the army, any alteration whatsoever might be introductory of difficulties and confusion; but independent of considerations of this kind, the reasons on which your officers

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64. Lieut. John Dover, of the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment. His resignation was dated Nov. 2, 1778.

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65. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

On November 12 Washington wrote to Major General Sullivan calling for an accurate list of those who were to be commissioned in Colonel Henley's regiment: "When I receive this I shall order commissions to be made out, and take the first opportunity to transmit them. But you will take precautions against the insertion of appointments not legally made; admitting those only of the first instance, or of a regular succession confirmed by proper officers." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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68. This representation, dated Nov. 5, 1778, is addressed to Regnier and signed by 4 captains and 5 lieutenants of the Fourth New York Regiment. It is in the *Washington Papers*.

found their request does not operate in favor of the change they desire. You may mention to the Gentlemen that the persons who have made incursions on Long Island have done it without my permission; And that a frequency of such prædatory conduct under proper authority, when not against our enemy in arms would soon put an end to the very intention of Major Grays command; those incursions have been chiefly planned against the inhabitants of the Island. You will also observe to your officers, that I shall at all times take a pleasure in the gratification of that spirit of enterprise which they have discovered and in its direction to proper objects. I am etc.<sup>69</sup>

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69. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

## **To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 14, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have your favs. of the 9th. and 13th. I think it

will be on every account better for the Officers of the Connecticut line to take their places as they were posted by the new arrangement, and I desire that Genl. Huntington and Parsons may do it.

I have received advice from Boston that the Somerset of 64 Guns, one of Admiral Byron's Fleet, went on shore on Cape Cod in a Gale of Wind the 31st. last month. The Officers and Crew except 40 or 50 drowned, are prisoners. It is said that three or four more ships were seen in extreme distress. If the Fleet had not made a port before the Storm of the 11th. and that of last night we may conclude that they cannot be in a very agreeable situation. They had not got into Newport the 10th. Count D'Estaing put to sea with his whole Fleet the 4th. of this month. I am etc.<sup>79</sup>

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 14, 1778.

Dear Sir: Permission is granted to send a Flag Boat from New York to Kings Ferry with Cloathing and other necessaries for the troops of the Convention who may be shortly

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79. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

expected at Fishkill on their way to Virginia. Upon the arrival of the British Boat at Kings Ferry, you are to procure a proper Vessel and take the goods out of her and send them under the care of an Officer who is to deliver them to the Deputy Quarter Master Genl. at Fishkill landing, to be carefully stored till called for.<sup>83</sup> I am etc.<sup>84</sup>

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES SCOTT**

Head Quarters, November 14, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowlege your favor of Yesterday, and one by Colonel Graham.<sup>80</sup>

When Colonel Graham was up here, I received from Count D'Estaing a number of declarations, to the french inhabitants of America,<sup>81</sup> addressed to them in the name of his most christian majesty. Each of the gentlemen who were at table got one of those declarations. As I do not think it proper they should be made public by me in the first instance; or that they should creep into New York before they have an operation elsewhere I have therefore recalled all the declarations but that one in Colonel Grahams possession. You will be pleased to recover this as soon as possible and transmit it here.

In the letter from Mr. Clark the A. Commissary

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83. On November 16 Washington wrote again to Clinton ordering him to march as soon as possible to Albany. "The inclosed copy of a letter to Genl. Hand will point out the cause of your movement, and you will consider it as instructions for your conduct, as you will have the command. ... I wrote you on Saturday respecting a flag Vessel that might come up to Kings ferry. If She should not come before you march, you will advise Colo. Malcom of the matter and request him to pursue the same conduct with respect to the Cloathing &c. she may bring as was prescribed to you." This original letter is in the Morgan Library.

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84. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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80. Col. Morris Graham, of the New York levies.

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81. A translation of this Declaration, in the writing of John Laurens, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 59, 3, fol. 147. It was read in Congress by the request of the French Minister Gérard on December 5.

Genl. to the Convention army he requests a passport by land; and an examination of his letters, in order that he may not be under the necessity of going to Boston in case the troops should be on their march. You will examine the letters he brought out of N. York, and give him a permission to proceed by the nearest route to Cambridge or the Convention troops, previously taking his parole that he will not communicate with the people to the injury or disadvantage of the States, either directly or indirectly.

The inclosures you will send into N. Y. by flag and should Mr. Clarke want to write me, you will give his the same conveyance. I am etc.

P.S. In case Colo. Graham has had the declaration translated, you will do every thing to recover such from the persons who may have them.<sup>82</sup>

**To MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburgh, November 16, 1778.

Dear Sir: By a Letter from General Hand of the 13th. which came to hand to day, I received the disagreeable intelligence that the Enemy had proceeded to the settlement of Cherry Valley, surprised and slain Colo. Alden, who was

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82. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

stationed there and committed many outrages. I wish it may not turn out, that the whole of his Regt. has been cut off, as the accounts seem to have left matters in a very doubtful and disagreeable situation. These incursions and depredations of one settlement after another are infinitely distressing, and if possible, I should be happy to check them effectually. I have ordered the remainder of Clinton's Brigade to move immediately to Albany, and I would wish you to consider with Genl. Hand, whether it will be practicable for it, in conjunction with the other troops in that Quarter, to prosecute any offensive operation this season. If it will not, you will be so obliging, as to advise with him on the disposition that should be made of the Troops, so as to give the most extensive security to the Frontiers and having regard to their own safety. Besides the Troops now going to Albany, I ordered Count Pulaski some days ago to march to the Minisincks with his Legion consisting of about 250 Horse and foot, which will be reinforced by Armand's and Spencers Corps, amounting to about the same number. This force you will have in view, in your deliberations, and also Colo. Cortlandts Regiment, which is now between Minisincks and Rochester.

You will not be unmindful of the Canada intelligence, I am persuaded; and I must request the earliest exertions in your power to obtain it.

I have directed the Quarter Master Genl. to set the saw mills to work about Fort Ann and Fort Edward, and shall be happy in your advice to Colo. Lewis upon the occasion.

The Enemy still remain in New York and at Rhode Island, and it would seem from the lateness of the season and other circumstances, that they mean to winter there, yet there are somethings which favour a hope to the contrary.

The Winds of late have been very violent. On the 31st. Ult. the Somerset of 64 Guns was drove on shore on the south side of Cape Cod and her Crew made prisoners. There is also a report that three more of the fleet are lost on Nantucket Shoals. The Count D'Estaing put to sea with his Squadron on the 4th. Instr. I dont know his destination. I am etc.<sup>89</sup>

**To LORD STIRLING**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 16, 1778.

My Lord: You will be pleased to order Colonel Spencer, with his Regiment, to repair immediately to Coles Fort, at the Minisink, and there join General Count Pulaski. Your Lordship will further direct that Colonel Spencer may take the nearest route, and make his march as expeditious as possible.

It was not till to day I had an opportunity to acknowlege your letters of the 11th. and 13th. Inst. The

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89. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

uncertainty which General Skinner's<sup>90</sup> answer left us in, with respect to Sir Henry Clinton, is cleared up by a letter of the 10th. which I received from himself.

As your Lordship predicted of Admiral Byron, so has it in some measure fallen out. One of his vessels, the Sommersit, has been lost on Cape Codd, and the crew, about 500, are prisoners in our hands. It is said, that three others were seen at the same time in great distress.

General Sullivan in a letter of the 13th. mentions, that one large man of war had arrived at Newport harbour, and that 10 more had appeared off the East end of block Island, standing in, all supposed to be of Byrons fleet.

The late embarkations of the enemy have rather deranged my ideas of the number of regiments which still remain at New York and its dependencies, as well as those that have sailed. It is absolutely necessary at least that the former should be known with great precision. For this purpose you may register in different columns the accounts of deserters, your information from spies, and persons who may come out of New York. In one column designating the corps which have sailed, and those which remain on Staten and Long Island. As you proceed in this work, you will transmit me copies, and the result as soon as it is made complete.

Colonel Ogden perhaps will be able to ascertain, by a channel which he mentioned to me at Mrs. Provost<sup>91</sup> the exact

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90. Brig. Gen. Cortlandt Skinner, of the New Jersey Volunteers, British Provincial Troops.

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91. Mrs. Samuel Provost.

number of Regiments yet remaining which is by far the most essential part of the inquiry. I am  
&ca.<sup>92</sup>

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92. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

## **To BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 16, 1778.

Sir: I have recd. yours of the 13th. containing the disagreeable account of the attack upon Colo. Aldens Regt. at Cherry Valley. But your Letter of the 10th. has never come to hand. I have ordered Genl. Clinton with the two remaining Regts. of his Brigade to march immediately to Albany,<sup>93</sup> that they may be ready to act as circumstances may require. It is in the highest degree distressing to have our frontier so continually harrassed by this collection of Banditti under Brand<sup>94</sup> and Butler.<sup>95</sup> I would have you without loss of time consult Genl. Schuyler and some of the Gentlemen and others in the part of the Country where you now are, upon the propriety or practicability of some offensive operation at this season of the year, with the number of Men which the addition of the two Regts. will make against these people, by means of which they may be removed to such a distance as to make it inconvenient for them to make such frequent incursions. If any thing is to be undertaken let me know upon what quarter it is to be, as soon as it is determined.

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93. "In writing to him, [General Hand] it was only intended that matters should be getting in train."—*Washington to James Clinton*, Nov. 16, 1778. This letter is in the Morgan Library.

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94. Joseph Brant.

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95. Walter Butler.

If it shall not be judged expedient to carry an expedition at this time, you will then consult with the Gentlemen above mentioned upon the most proper disposition of the troops to support each other in case of an attack upon any of the separate posts, and at the same time to afford protection and cover to the Frontier. Count Pulaski's legion consisting of about 250 Horse and Foot are at Coles Fort in the Minisink settlement. I intend to strengthen them, with the addition of some other Corps say about 250 more. Colo. Cortlandts Regt. is between Minisink and Rochester. In deliberating upon the matter before mentioned, you will keep these troops in view, as they may either co-operate with

those to the Northward, or make any diversion to favor them, should an offensive operation be determined upon. I am &ca.<sup>96</sup>

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96. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

**\*To JEREMIAH WADSWORTH**

Head Qurs. Fredg., November 16, 1778.

Sir: In your Letter of the 14th. Instr. in answer to mine of the [my enquiries]<sup>98</sup> I do not know whether you clearly understood my meaning and intention; therefore, as it is essential to the due execution of some Plans in contemplation, and to orders I am about to give, to have the following questions solved with precision I wish you to say.

How much Flour, and how much Salted Beef, and Porke, you can lay in at Albany by the 1st. day of Feby. 1779?<sup>99</sup>

How much of each of these Articles you can lay in at the same place by the first day of May next ensuing?

And whether a large, and constant supply of Beef Cattle could be had at that place afterwards to feed

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98. The words in brackets were inserted by Tilghman, who crossed out "mine of the."

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99. Washington first wrote "15th of Jan."

On November 16 Washington wrote to Lieut. Col. Ludowick Weltner, of the German Regiment, that he preferred granting him a furlough to accepting his resignation tendered on account of Weltner's health: "Please to consider of this....If you conclude to quit the service, I shall make no further objection, but must regret the loss of a good officer." Weltner retired in January, 1781. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

15,000 Men from each of the days above recited; if necessary for the purpose of saving the Salted Meat?



How much Flour, and how much Salted Beef or Porke, you can lay up on Connecticut River, from Fort Charles, or No. 4 upwards by the 15th. day of January next?

How much of these Articles you can lay in at the same place, or places by the first day of May next ensuing?

And whether a regular supply of Cattle could be had there for the purpose of feeding 5000 Men afterwards.

It is of importance to be informed of these matters with as much accuracy as the Nature of the case will admit of, early in the Morning. I am &ca.

**To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM**

Head Quarters, November 17, 1778.

Dear Sir: You will, as soon as possible after receipt of this, put the two Massachusetts Brigades under your command in motion, with their Artillery and Baggage, and proceed with them to Danbury, where you will receive further orders.<sup>1</sup> General Poor, with his Brigade, is to conduct the Convention troops from Enfield to Fish Kill landing. I have written to him particularly on the subject and therefore it is unnecessary to detail his instructions here. The two Massachusetts Brigades cannot arrive too soon at Danbury, provided they do not march so fast as to injure themselves. I am, etc.

P. S. There have been several claims exhibited against a Lt. Trowbridge<sup>2</sup> of the 2d. Connecticut Batallion, by Men in his Company, such as bounty and billeting money, and pay; and besides this, it seems he was considerably indebted to the public. It is said that you gave him a discharge from the service. I shall be glad if you will inform me, whether he lodged with you proper certificates

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1. See Washington's letters to Maj. Gen. Israel Putnam, Nov. 20, 1778, *post*.

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2. Lieut. Elihu Trowbridge, of the Second Connecticut Regiment. He resigned Dec. 4, 1777.

of his being clear of debt previous to his dismissal and whether he was at that time or is now in circumstances to pay the claims against him.<sup>3</sup>

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL ENOCH POOR**

Head Quarters Fredericksburg, November 17, 1778.

Dear Sir: You are to march immediately upon the receipt hereof with your Brigade to Enfield at which place I imagine the first division of the Convention troops will be arrived by the time you get there.

It is intended that your Brigade shall guard them from thence to Fishkill by the inclosed Route.<sup>4</sup> You will therefore inquire of the Officer who conducts the first division, into how many they are divided, that you may

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3. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

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4. This route is entered on the draft after the postscript. It is the same as that given in Royal Flint's memorandum in the footnote to Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. William Heath, Nov. 6, 1778, *q. v.*

proportion your force accordingly. Be pleased to appoint a careful field Officer to superintend each division. You may come on with the front yourself or wait to make any arrangements, as you may judge necessary. Colo. Bland of the 1st. Regt. of Dragoons went forward by my directions to meet the troops. He is to conduct them to the place of their destination in Virginia: But as he will be wanted to make some preparations for their accommodation thro' Jersey and Pennsylvania he will leave them under your charge as far as Fishkill and come forward. He will communicate his instructions to you. I would advise you to send your heavy Baggage and Artillery with Pattersons and Learneds Brigades to Danbury. Upon your arrival at Fishkill, you will receive orders for the disposition of your Brigade for the Winter. I am etc.

P.S. Upon reconsideration you will be pleased to send your Baggage and Artillery thro' New Milford and Fredericksbg. to Fishkill.<sup>5</sup>

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5. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

**To COLONEL THEODORICK BLAND**

Head Quarters, November 17, 1778.

Dear Sir: In order to avoid the calling on the militia of Connecticut, for the purpose of guarding the troops of Convention, I have directed Genl. Poor, with his brigade to proceed with them as far as the North River.

Major Jameson may continue, but you will be pleased to return here previously communicating to General Poor a copy of your instructions.

I am the more desirous to see you, that a comprehensive plan may be settled for the remainder of the march, as I mean you should take up the troops at the North River, and continue with them to Charlottesville. You may have discovered some defects which future arrangements may be able to obviate, and make the journey easier to you, and more comfortable to the troops. I am etc.<sup>7</sup>

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7. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

## **To MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 18, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have your favs. of the 10th. 13th. and 15th. instants. I am obliged to you for the Newport paper which gives a more circumstantial account of the embarkation of the Enemy than any I had procured. The prospect of an evacuation of New York is not so great as it was some little time ago. A fleet consisting of the greatest number of their remaining Vessels is now collecting at the Hook, their departure must reduce the matter to a certainty, at least for the present, because if they do not all go off in that fleet, part must remain of necessity. Be pleased to communicate every intelligence of the Enemys motions upon Rhode Island.

Colonel Wadsworth Commissary General of purchases has shewn me an order from you to Clarke and Nightingale,<sup>14</sup> which they have delegated to a Mr. Mumford, to purchase Flour in this state for the use of the Army at Rhode

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14. Clark & Nightingale, merchants, of Providence, R I.

Island.<sup>15</sup> The Commissary General has represented this to me, as having a tendency to raise the price unnecessarily, by increasing the number of purchasers, and to defeat the salutary effects of a law lately passed in this state for the better supply of the Army, by which, no Flour can be transported to any of the other states except by the Commy. Genl. or special license of the Governor.

Count D'Estaing by making a private Contract with a Mr. Price for 2000 Barrels of Flour not only raised the price exceedingly, but under the allowance given to Mr. Price to export his 2000 Barrels the Governor suspects many more were run upon private account. The Commy. Genl. pledges himself to supply you amply with both Bread and Meat this Winter. He begs you to recollect, that if you have heretofore been scantily supplied with the former, it has been owing to the great and sudden demand of the troops assembled without the least previous notice for the Rhode Island Expedition, and the consumption of the French Fleet. Under all these difficulties he contrived to keep up a supply, and as he is now releived from the greatest part of his burthen to the Eastward by the removal of the Convention troops and the sailing of the fleet from Boston, he has not the least doubt of keeping your magazines full. I have therefore desired Mr. Mumford to withhold his purchase [and beg that you will never take a step of the kind again without first representing the matter to me; by means of contending purchasers Flour in this State rose from three pounds to Seven pounds ten shillings and Eight pounds

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15. This order to Thomas Mumford and Zebdial Rogers to, purchase and forward flour to Major General Sullivan is dated Oct. 30, 1778, and is in the *Washington Papers*.

pr. Ct. and the business not half as well done as if the whole purchases had passed through one hand.]

A 64 and a 40 Gun ship came into the Hook the 12th. and 13th. dismasted. I imagine they are part of Byron's scattered fleet. I am, etc.<sup>16</sup>

## **To BARON DE KALB**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 18, 1778.

Dear Sir: The first division of the Troops of the Convention may be expected in a few clays at Fishkill on their way to Virginia. The Escort from the North River to the Delaware is to be furnished from your division. You will therefore immediately select between five and six hundred Men for this duty, divided into six detachments, (as the Convention troops march in so many,) each under the command of an active Officer not above the Rank of a Lieutenant Colonel. I mention this, that there may be no interference with Colo. Bland on account of Rank, he being appointed to superintend the march of the troops the whole way to the place of their destination in Virginia. That the Men from your division may be ready, let them cross the River immediately and encamp near

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16. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The part in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

New Burgh.

It is probable that many of the Convention troops may, under the pretence of desertion, attempt to get into New York. I therefore desire you will order a strict watch to be kept, and if any of them are found stragling any suspicious distance from their Corps, that they may be taken up and returned to them. I am &ca.

P.S. Upon reconsidering the matter, it will be better to post two Regiments at the Continental Village where Genl. Clinton was posted, and if any of the Convention troops attempt to pass that way let them be stopped and informed that they must go back into the Country. Returning them to their Corps will have a bad effect to those who really mean to desert in earnest.<sup>17</sup>

#### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL ENOCH POOR**

Head Quarters, November 18, 1778.

Dear Sir: Since writing to you yesterday, I received a Letter from Colo. Bland, advising me that the Van of the Convention Troops were at Enfield on the 13th. and would reach Sharon to night; also that proper arrangements had been made and Militia escorts assembled for conducting

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17. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

them to the North river. As matters are so circumstanced and the Troops much more forward in their advance than I expected, I think it best to countermand my instructions to you of yesterday; and that they should come on under the care of Colo. Bland and the Militia provided for the purpose. You however will put your Brigade in motion with its baggage and Artillery and proceed to Fish Kill by the shortest route, with as much expedition as you can, without injuring your Men, where you will receive further orders from Major Genl. McDougal. I am, etc.<sup>18</sup>

#### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON**

Head Quarters, November 18, 1778.

Dear Sir: I am informed by Colo. Bland who has the care of the Convention Troops, that the first division of them would be at Sharon this Night. It is more than probable that many of these under the pretence of desertion, will endeavour to find their way into New York; I would therefore wish you to stop all that may happen in your way and detain them until you think their release may be safe, or

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18. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. This letter was inclosed in one of November 18 from Washington to Putnam, of the same purport as to the march of the Convention troops, with instructions to forward it to Poor, and is in the *Washington Papers*.

send them back into the Country, provided there will not be a probability of accomplishing their aim, should they mean to get into the City, with a threat that if they are detected again under the slightest appearance of making their escape that they may rely on the severest treatment. It would not be amiss to warn the Magistrates convenient to you of this matter, who may frequently have an opportunity of intercepting such when it would be out of your power to do it.

I wish to be informed when you expect to arrive at Danbury. I am etc.<sup>19</sup>

#### **To COLONEL DAVID HENLEY**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 18, 1778.

Sir: Colonel Gist handed me your letter of the 16th. Inst.

You will be pleased to continue in your command,<sup>20</sup> till circumstances may make it necessary to alter the arrangement, or till my furthers orders on this subject.<sup>21</sup>

I need not recommend to you diligence and good conduct in the execution of its different objects. But besides communicating your information as it arises, in the manner

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19. The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

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20. Henley succeeded Scott in command on the lines at Bedford, N.Y.

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21. Armand's corps was serving with the light troops under Henley on the lines at this time, and Armand himself, being dissatisfied with the treatment he had received from Congress, requested Washington's leave to go to Philadelphia to settle the affairs of his corps and return to France.

Washington furnished him with a letter of introduction to Congress. "He considers his honor as interested in having his engagements with his officers fulfilled and *if* he can succeed in this, proposes to return immediately to France. Several of these Gentlemen also, he informs me will accompany him. Under these circumstances as the appointments have been made and the Gentlemen have served a considerable time under those appointments, I take the liberty to recommend it to Congress, to grant commissions agreeable thereto." Washington's letter to the President of Congress, dated Nov. 19, 1778, is in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to the President of Congress, Aug. 31, 1778, *ante*.)

which Genl. Scott pursued, and in which you have his instructions, you might make out a table, or something in the way of columns, under which you might range, their magazines of forage, grain and the like, the different corps and regiments, the Works, where thrown up, their connexion, kind and extent, the officers commanding, with the number of guns &ca. &ca. This table should comprehend in one view all that can be learned from deserters, spies, and persons who may come out from the enemy's boundaries. And tho' it will be a gradual work, and subject to frequent alteration and amendment yet it may be, by attention and proper perseverance made a very useful one. Transcripts may be drawn occasionally from it as you advance, and communicated.

In the mean time you will direct your utmost exertions to learn every movement which may lead to a positive conclusion with respect to their leaving, or garrisoning New York.

As the troops of Convention are on their way to the North river, on their march to Virginia, you will command the strictest observance of the roads leading from Kingsbridge, as well as in your look outs along the Hudson.

You will also, in case any of the convention troops should straggle down towards you with an intention to escape into New York, have them secured, that they may be sent into the country.

I have no doubt of the faithful execution of these things and of your utmost diligence in the great object of just, constant and authentic intelligence. I am etc.<sup>22</sup>

**To COLONEL THOMAS CLARK**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 18, 1778.

Sir: You will be pleased upon the Rect. of this to cross with the two Carolina Regiments at Kings Ferry and proceed immediately to Sufferans and take post at the entrance of the Clove.<sup>23</sup> You will then post small parties at the different passes between that and Hudson's River.

These positions are to prevent the Convention Troops from deserting to the Enemy, while they cross above you on their way to Virginia. You will direct these parties to apprehend such as may escape from their Escort and fall in with them, and put them under proper confinement till they can be sent into the Country. You will occupy this position till further orders. I am &ca.

P.S. As soon as you have certain intelligence that the Convention troops have all passed you may call in the small parties. You

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22. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

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23. Smith's Clove, Highlands, N.Y.

may in the mean time be repairing and enlarging, if necessary, the Barracks at Sydmans<sup>24</sup> near Sufferans as you may probably winter there.<sup>25</sup>

## **To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE**

Fredericksburg, November 18, 1778.

Sir: I wish you would request the person whom you formerly recommended to me, and who Genl. Scott tells me, is to correspond with you, to ascertain the following facts with as much precision and expedition, as possible.

What Corps (without having regard to numbers) are left upon York Island, and the posts at and about Kings Bridge.

What Corps are upon long Island.

Whether any new works are erecting near the City of New York, or the old ones repairing.

Whether any works are erecting, or the old ones repairing on long Island, opposite to the City of New York.



Whether the Troops upon Long Island are stationed, and what appears to be their object, and who commands them.

What General Officers remain on York Island,

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24. Sidman's Clove, Highlands, N.Y.

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25. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Long Island, and at the posts at and about Kings Bridge.

Whether Coffins and Andersons Store (chiefly intended for the use of the Army) is still at New York and open.

Whether, as it is suspected that there is some movement in agitation at Rhode Island, the Troops at that place may not be brought to New York.

The reason why I wish to have the Corps (which are left) ascertained, is that I can form a pretty accurate opinion of the numbers from hence, and this is a piece of knowledge that a man of common abilities may come at with precision by taking a little pains. With esteem and regard I am, etc.<sup>26</sup>

## **To LORD STIRLING**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 19, 1778.

My Lord: I am favd. with yours of the 15th. The accounts of the embarkation of the enemy vary so much in respect to Corps and Numbers that, I am every day more and more at a loss. However I hope if your Spies will attend particularly to the observations recommended in my last, we shall be able to ascertain the Corps that remain at New York and its dependencies. I am informed

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26. The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

that the persons who are indulged with a liberty of carrying on a small trade to and from New York for the purpose of gaining intelligence, abuse the license to a very great degree; insomuch that many of the well affected Inhabitants complain. I am convinced this is neither done by Your Lordships

connivance or permission, and that you will take proper measures to curb this extravagant passion for gain in the persons who are of necessity employed in this Business.

Be pleased to give orders to the commanding Officer of Moylan's Regt. if the Colonel is not himself in the neighbourhood, to collect all the Men and Horses and hold the Regiment ready to move into Quarters. I will consult the Commissary of Forage upon the proper place of Cantonment and inform you in my next where they are to be stationed for the Winter. I am etc.

P.S. Since writing the above, Colo. Biddle has fixed upon the town of Lancaster for the Winter Quarters of Moylans Regt. be therefore pleased to direct them to march without loss of time to that place.<sup>27</sup>

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27. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

#### **To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL**

Head Qurs., November 19, 1778.

Sir: If you should not have reached Danbury or very near it with the division before this gets to hand, you will be pleased to halt the two Connecticut Brigades where this shall find you 'till further orders.<sup>28</sup> General Nixon will still proceed to Danbury, as was at first intended. In this case you will inform me where the two Brigades halt. But if you should be very near Danbury with the division, you will continue your march to that place. I am, etc.<sup>29</sup>

#### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON**

Fredericksburg, November 19, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have been favoured with your Letter of the 16th. Inst.

I confess I expected that the Connecticut Troops were to receive their Cloathing from Major Bigelow,<sup>30</sup> and was surprised to find, that there was even a wish or an idea to the contrary. I have ever held and, I hope, I ever shall, all the troops of the Army in the same point of light, and as far as it has been in my

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28. McDougall, who was at Hartford, had been ordered (November 17) to march immediately to Danbury, where he would be met by further orders.

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29. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

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30. Maj. John Bigelow, Assistant Commissary of Clothing.

power they have had equal justice in every instance. In the case under consideration, the Cloathing in the hands of Major Bigelow was allotted to the Connecticut troops, not by any compulsion or wish of mine, but on the most pressing and importunate solicitation of General Parsons, and Other Officers. They feared, that it would be made subject to a common distribution, and such was the anxiety to obtain it for the Connecticut troops, that arguments were used to shew, that they, from many considerations, had an exclusive claim to it, or at least one superior to any Others. These are facts well known to Genl. Parsons and to other officers, and, at the same time that they must remove every idea of a discrimination on my part injurious to them, which I am happy to beleive never had place in your mind, they must preclude every possible ground of complaint, or right to claim a change, even if the Cloathing drawn by the other troops should be much better. However, notwithstanding all this, as it is my wish to prevent the least possible pretext for uneasiness and to place all the Troops on the same footing, as far as it can be done, I shall be willing to give orders for compleat suits of French Cloathing for all the inlisted men in the Two Connecticut Brigades, under the usual restrictions, provided there shall remain sufficient, after the other Troops are served, who as matters stand I am obliged to consider as entitled to a preference, on your assurances, that all

the Cloathing they have already received on Continental account from Major Bigelow or that is now in the Taylors hands, as a supply for the Winter and the ensuing campaign shall be returned to the public Cloathier. This exception I am obliged to make, and these assurances I must require and obtain, in justice to the States and to the rest of the Army. You I am certain will think them right, and will punctually comply with whatever you undertake. We have been fortunate in our supplies of Cloathing, compared to what we have hitherto been, but yet œconomy and an ingenuous conduct are essential to make it serve and to promote equality.

Among the many arguments which were adduced to show how extremely improper it would be to deprive them of these Cloaths it was urged that they had employed their own Taylors, their own Officers to superintend the business, and that the Cloaths were made to suit the uniforms of the respective Regts. I am, etc.<sup>31</sup>

**To JEREMIAH WADSWORTH**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 19, 1778.

Sir: I am to desire that you will immediately give

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31. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

order for establishing as large a Magazine of Flour and Salt meat at Albany as you possibly can without injury to the Army in its Winter Cantonments. I desire that you will also immediately give directions for the establishment of as large a magazine of Flour as you possibly can between No. 4 and the Coos upon Connecticut River. The thousand Barrels of Salt Meat which you say, in yours of the 17th. is already in that Country and on the way thither will be sufficient in that quarter, as should an expedition be carried on from thence, our dependance for meat must be chiefly upon live Cattle to save carriage. I wish every exertion may be made to establish the Magazines at Albany. Be pleased to make a report from time to time of your progress, that I may put a stop should the quantity exceed what I think will be the demand. But of which I imagine there is not much danger from your late representations. I am, etc.

P.S. Let this be done with as little stir as possible.<sup>32</sup>

**\*To MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER**

Fredericksburg, November 20[-21], 1778.

My dear Sir: Congress seem to have a strong desire to undertake an Expedition against Canada. The practicability,

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32. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

of it depends, upon the employment the Enemy intend to give us on the Sea board next Campaign, on *their* strength in Canada, the State of *our* resources, and other circumstances, some of which are too much buried in obscurity, others too much in the field of conjecture to form any decisive opinion of at this time; But there is not a moment to spare in preparing for such an event, if, hereafter, it should be found expedient to undertake it.

In your Letter of the 9th. Ult., which you did me the favor of writing upon this Subject, you are opposed to an Enterprize against Canada by the way of Co'os, and assign cogent reasons for not making it a *principal* dependance.<sup>60</sup> You are also against the rout by Oswego; but as an Expedition that way had not been suggested, you do not touch upon the reasons; but recomd. the common rout by the way of Lake Champlain; and a Winter Expedition if the Ice will admit of it.

In general, Winter Campaigns are destructive to Troops; and nothing but pressing necessity, and the best state of preparation can justify them. I fear neither the State of our Provisions, the condition of our Men. nor the situation of our Officers (whose distresses on acct. of the uncommonly high prices of every necessary of life, are a source of general discontent and indifference to the Service) would warrant the undertaking; even if the state of the Lakes, and the force of Canada, should invite the Measure. I am clear also that neither force nor Stratagem, can give us a well grounded hope of a decisive

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60. Schuyler argued that as the distance from Albany to Coos was 200 miles "a great part of the road leads thro a very mountainous Country and such are the roads that any kind of Carriages that pass do It with great difficulty, here then is a land Carriage of near three hundred hard that is from Albany to Coos and from thence Into Canada, and one third of this distance thro an uninhabited Country, where not a mouthful of Forrage is to be had." He added to this that the St. Lawrence would have to be crossed; that it could not be bridged and that it was impossible to transport a sufficient number of batteaux through the Wilderness. Schuyler's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

Superiority in Naval strength, upon Lake Champlain, where the Enemy are, at present, so powerful.

Your scheme for preparing Materials for building two large Ships upon this Lake is plausible, and if only one or two were entrusted with the Secret, practicable. But when fifty Men are to be consulted, before the measure can be adopted; When a number of these, (inattentive to the importance of keeping Military Manœuvres secret) make matter of incautious, if not common conversation of the Plans in contemplation, and a knowledge of them by that means gets into the hands of the Enemy's emissaries, who are industrious in acquiring, and diligent in communicating every piece of useful information, I say when this is the case, I can entertain but little hope of success from a project of this kind.

If from these considerations, a Winters Expedition is found impracticable, or unadvisable; If the conquest of the Enemy's Fleet on lake Champlain is not to be accomplished by force, nor by stratagem; And if an Enterprize by the way of Co'os is inadmissible as a primary object.

1st. What door is left open for an Expedition against Canada?

2d. How far is there a moral certainty of extending the American Arms into that Country in the course of next Campaign?

3d. And how far short of the entire conquest, and

annexation of Canada to the Union, would give permanent peace and security to the Frontiers of these States?

In considering these points, and such others as may hereafter occur, it will be necessary to take the matter up in two points of view; presuming in the one case, that the Enemy will evacuate the United States. in the other, that they mean to retain New York and Rhode Island as Garrison Towns.

In discussing them with that freedom and candor which I [mean]<sup>61</sup> to do, you will readily perceive that [it is my]<sup>62</sup> wish to enter into an unlimited, and confidential correspondence with you on this subject. Where then, in addition to the above queries,

4th. Lie the difficulties of an Expedition against Canada by the way of Lake Ontario?

5th. Why did General Amherst take this rout (when lake Champlain was open, free, and so much more direct) if he did not foresee that some apparent advantages were to be derived from it?

6th. What resources can be drawn from the State of New York towards the support of an Expedition of this kind?

7th. At what places would it be necessary to establish Posts between Albany and Oswego, for the support of the communication, and Security of Convoys? and

8th. How many Men will be required at each Post for the above purposes? and at Oswego?

I mean to hazard my thoughts upon a Plan of

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61. Washington wrote first "it is requisite," which Hamilton crossed out and wrote "mean," but omitted the personal pronoun, which Washington inserted afterwards.

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62. Washington wrote "I mean to." Hamilton's change was again incomplete, and Washington added "wish to" to complete the sense. Throughout this draft the words in brackets have been inserted by Hamilton.

operations for next Campaign, if the Enemy should evacuate these States and leave us at liberty but being unacquainted with the Country, and many other matters essentially necessary to form a right judgment upon so extensive a project I am sensible that it will be very defective and shall consider it as the part of friendship in you, to observe upon every part of my plan, with the utmost freedom.

I have already laid it down as a position, that unless a Winters Expedition can be undertaken with Success (opposed to which, in addition to the reasons already assigned, the want of Provisions I find is an almost insuperable bar) or the Fleet at St. Johns can by some means or other be destroyed, [the]<sup>63</sup> door into Canada [by way of Lake Champlain] is effectually closed;<sup>64</sup> I am further of opinion that the distance of Land Carriage by the way of Co's for Flour, Stores &ca. is too great to expect that a sufficient body of Troops can be introduced through that rout to answer *singly* any valuable purpose; [and] I am [therefore], naturally, [led] to turn my thoughts to the Rout by the way of Oswego though the same kind of difficulties but not in so great a degree, present themselves here, as on the other Lake.

If I am not mistaken with respect to the Water carriage from Schenectady to Oswego, by the help of finesse, and false appearances, a pretty large stride may be taken towards obtaining a Naval superiority on lake Ontario

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63. Washington first wrote "that that," which is crossed out.

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64. The words in brackets were inserted by Alexander Hamilton, after Washington had crossed out the following: "the Naval strength on Lake Champlain being too great for us to equal by the building."

before the real design would be unfolded.

The plan I would adopt shd. be this. By inuendos and oblique hints, [I would endeavour to inculcate an idea] that we were determined to acquire the Mastery of lake Champlain; and to give currency to this belief, I would have the Saw Mills about Fort Ann and Fort Edwd. set to Work to prepare plank for Bateaux, and such kind of Armed Vessels as may be proper for lake Ontario. I would go further, and tho it should be inconvenient, and expensive, I would build the Batteaux, and bring the Timber for larger Vessels to some place or places that might serve to confirm an Idea of this kind. A Plan of this sort if well conceived and digested, and executed [with secrecy], might I think deceive, so far as to draw the attention of the Enemy to Lake Champlain, at the expence of Ontario; especially as part of my plan is to advance a respectable body of Troops at a proper Season to Co's, for purposes which will be mentioned hereafter.

In the Spring, when every thing is ripe for execution, and the real design can no longer be concealed, I would advance with the utmost celerity (consistent with proper caution) to Oswego; in the Batteaux which have been provided (apparently) for Champlain, transporting the Armed Vessels in pieces to the same place. But here I am to ask if this is practicable? My knowledge of the Water Communication from Schenectady to Oswego, is not sufficiently accurate to form a decided opinion upon the possibility of this Measure; and if it is not to be effected,

my plan in part fails; and we can only provide the Materials under false colours, and depend upon out building the Enemy to obtain the superiority of the Lake. Whether [the superiority can be obtained in this manner] I am [not well] able<sup>65</sup> to determine, tho it is very necessary to be known, as it is the corner Stone of the superstructure. Much will depend upon the practicability of the Enemys getting Vessels, or materials for vessels from lake Champlain or Montreal to the navigation above la galette; because I [proceed]<sup>66</sup> upon the principle, that if we can deceive them effectually, their whole attention will be drawn to the more interior parts of the Country, and of course their Ship Carpenters, and Materials for Ship building, will be employed that way.

The foregoing is a summary of my [Capital]<sup>67</sup> movement; to facilitate wch. I would, as has been before observed, advance a body of Men from the Co'os. The motions of these should be regulated precisely by those of the [main]<sup>68</sup> army, establishing Posts as they go, for the purposes of retreat (in case of necessity) and to protect convoys if the [main]<sup>68</sup> Army should be able to penetrate Canada as far as Montreal.

Several advantages will be derived from the advance of a body of Troops by the way of Co'os; first, strengthening the belief, that we mean to enter by the way of St. John's; Secondly it will serve to distract the Enemy in their Councils and measures, [and] either divide their force and

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65. Washington wrote "unable." Hamilton changed it, as above.

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66. Washington wrote "go."

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67. Washington wrote "general."

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68. Washington wrote "grand."

render them weak at all points, or by keeping them collected, expose the interior, or exterior part of the Country to a Successful and fortunate blow, from one or the other of these bodies, and will,



[in the third place],<sup>69</sup> open a communication for ample supplies of live Cattle, if we should have occasion for them for Troops in Canada.

Under this plan, it is not only possible, but to be expected, that the Enemy, if they should come at the knowledge of our real designs would oppose their whole Naval force to our Troops on lake Ontario, and their Land force against those by the way of Co's. In this case I should be glad of solutions to the questions wch follow.

9th. Is there any practicable rout from Johnson Hall or any other part of the Mohawk River, or from the upper parts of Hudsons River, to a River emptying itself into the St. Lawrence a little above la galette, by which we could avoid lake Ontario and the Armed Vessels on those Waters altogether? and If this is not to be effected, and a superiority on the lake [is] despaired of, then, [I should wish to be informed.]

10th. Whether Niagara can be approached with an Army and the necessary apparatus by a rout which will avoid this Lake?

11th. What will be the distance of the March from Fort Schuyler? the kind of Country thro which it is to [be made]?<sup>70</sup> and the difficulties that are to be expected? and lastly

12th. The advantages, and disadvantages of Maintaining

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69. Washington wrote "thirdly."

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70. Washington wrote "pass."

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that Post, after possessing it? Canada<sup>71</sup> remaining in the hands of the Enemy.

For the more certain reduction of Niagara, and for the Peace and safety of the Frontiers of Pennsylvania and Virginia, a part of my plan is to advance a body of Troops from Pittsburg by the way of Alligany, la beauf (or French Creek) and Prisquile to the above Post, if it be practicable, of which I am not certain, as the Enemy have Armed Vessels on lake Erie and I am ignorant of the kind of Country between Prisquile and Niagara, in case it is to be attempted by a Land March. But admitting the impracticability of this, an Expedition to Detroit which Congress meditated last Fall, and still have in contemplation, will keep the Indians in that Quarter employed, and prevent them from affording

succour to the Garrison at Niagara. The preparations necessary to the one [will]<sup>72</sup> answer for the other; while the one to Niagara may be [concealed]<sup>73</sup> under the Idea of going to Detroit.

Although, under the present appearance of things, it is a matter of very great doubt whether we shall be in circumstances to prosecute a project of this kind, I have, nevertheless, given orders for Magazines of Provisions to be laid in at Albany and on Connecticut River from the lower Co's to No. 4; and have ordered the Saw Mills abt. Fort Ann &ca. to be set to Work, and shall be obliged to you

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71. The word "still" has here been crossed out.

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72. Washington wrote "answering."

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73. Washington wrote "hid."

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for your advice to Colo. Lewis<sup>74</sup> on this occasion.

If it should fall in your way to ascertain with precision, the Number and strength of the Vessels upon Lake Ontario, and down to la galette, and the force of the Garrisons at Niagara, Oswegatchie &ca., I shall thank you; and must beg leave to remind you of the mode you suggested to procure intelligence from Canada in the course of the Winter, as it is of infinite importance to be well informed of the strength, expectation, and preparation of the Enemy; and to receive the acct. through different Channels is also essential, to avoid deception.

I shall be very happy to see you at the head Quarters of the Army in your way to Philadelphia whenever it happens. Governor Clinton wrote me that he should be at Albany in the course of a few days; as I have implicit confidence in him it will be quite agreeable to me that you should converse largely with him upon the sevl. matters herein contained, and then furnish me with your observations upon my Plan, and the most effectual means of carrying it, or some other into execution; with the necessary preparations to be made during the Winter. With the greatest esteem, etc.

21st., P.S. Since writing this Letter I have seen a very intelligent Man

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74. Col. Morgan Lewis, deputy quartermaster general, Northern Department.

who was many years a liver at and about Detroit. He was sent Prisoner in May last from that Post to Quebec, and from Quebec escaped the 7th. of October. He has given me a very accurate acct. of

the Enemys' Naval force on the two Lakes (Erie and Ontario) at the time he was in that Country<sup>75</sup> but I should still be glad to see how far other Accts. corrispond with his and whether they have made any late progress in ship building since that period. He is particular also in his acct. of the strength of the Garrisons of Michilamakinack, Detroit, Niagara, and Oswegatchie as they stood in the Spring, and adds that at the time he passed down the River, the Enemy were removing Cannon from Oswegatchie to Buck Island which place he understood they meant to fortify. When he left Canada Genl. Haldiman with most of the Troops were at the Mouth of the Sorrel, very busy in fortifying that Post and strengthening themselves above on that River, the received opinion in the Country being that an Expedition would be undertaken.

**To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburgh, November 20, 1778.

Dear Sir: You are upon the Receipt hereof to proceed to Danbury with General Poors Brigade and send on General

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75. John Dodge. His account is in the *Washington Papers* under the date of November, 1778, and is indorsed by Washington "John Dodge's acct. of the strength of the Forts and Vessells on Lakes Erie and Ontario. Note—he left Detroit in May—& Quebec in October 1778."

Pattersons and Learneds by the most direct Route to Fishkills. Should Genl. Poors, agreeable to my orders of yesterday, have marched on towards Fishkill, you will be pleased to countermand them and turn them back to Danbury. The two Connecticut Brigades are also ordered to Danbury, at which place you are to wait further orders. Desire Genl. Patterson to proceed with the two Massachusetts Brigades as expeditiously as possible to Fishkills. I am etc.<sup>37</sup>

**To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM**

Fredericksburg, November 20, 1778.

Dear Sir: On the 17th. I wrote you that Genl. Poor, with his Brigade was to proceed to Enfield to conduct the Convention troops to Fish Kill landing.

On the 18, having received a Letter from Colo. Bland, advising that the Van of the Convention Troops had reached Enfield on the 13 and that proper Escorts of Militia were provided; and supposing that the whole would have passed that place before my Letter of the 17 could come to hand, I countermanded my order to Genl. Poor as to his taking charge of the Convention troops, and directed him to proceed by the shortest route to Fish Kill.

Supposing that the Convention Troops were under

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37. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman and has the following crossed out at the end: "You shall have my further orders respecting barracking the troops and other necessary directions."

the care of the Militia as last above mentioned, and having altered the destination of *Genl. Poor's Brigade to Danbury* instead of Fish Kills. I wrote you to day to proceed with it to Danbury. Since this I received your Letter of the 19th, informing me that you had just received mine of the 17th; that Genl. Poor would immediately march to take charge of the Convention Troops, and that their 3d Division was the day before at Simsbury.

Now this is to acquaint you that if General Poor is with the Convention Troops, in consequence of my first Letter of the 17th., he is to proceed with them to Fish Kill landing, notwithstanding my intermediate Orders to the contrary, altho he is ultimately to go to Danbury, otherwise, the Convention Troops will probably be without a guard, as the Militia it is likely upon his taking the care of them is returned to their Homes. But if he is not with the Convention Troops, and they are still under the escort of the Militia, they will bring them on and you will proceed with his Brigade to Danbury agreeable to the Order of this morning. Genl. Patterson with the 2 Massachusetts Brigades will advance to Fish Kill as expeditiously as he can. You will communicate these Orders to Genl. Poor, as I dont write to him. I am, etc.

P.S. If Genl. McDougal is at Hartford,<sup>38</sup> do inform him I wish to see him immediately.<sup>39</sup>

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38. On this same day (November 20) Washington wrote to General McDougall or the officer commanding his division to "give orders for Genl. Nixons Brigade to get in motion, and, with their Baggage and Artillery proceed without loss of time to the Continental Village." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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39. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

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## To BARON DE KALB

Head Quarters, Fredericksburgh, November 20, 1778.

Sir: You will be pleased to cross the North River with your whole division, including your baggage and artillery, before the arrival of the Convention troops; and take post at the Fork of the roads leading to Chester,<sup>40</sup> and through Smith's Clove, till the Convention troops begin their march from New Burgh, for the Delaware. Immediately preceeding this, General Smallwoods brigade will move to Chester, or rather a little beyond Chester, on the road leading thence to Pompton and there remain till the rear of the Convention troops has past. You will at the same time, march with the

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40. In Orange County, N.Y.

other brigade of your division to Smiths Tavern or beyond it, on the road passing through the Clove, and there continue, for the security of the pass, till the rear of the Convention troops is arrived at Chester. When the whole of these troops have passed Chester, both your Brigades will commence their march for middle brook.

The two Brigades will keep proper guards and use the greatest vigilance to prevent any of the Convention troops passing below them, either on pretence of desertion or otherwise. They will also keep a steady eye to West Point, and concert measures for affording immediate succour to the Fort on an emergency.

The two regiments ordered to the Continental village are to be recalled.

The number of men directed in my letter of the 18th are to be furnished as guards to the Convention troops; but for particular reasons, I should prefer to have regiments instead of detachments from the whole division applied to this duty. But they must not materially exceed the number prescribed nor must they be commanded by officers superior in rank to Colo. Bland, to avoid which you will select those corps whose Colonels are absent. I am, etc.

P.S. The direction given in my last for sending stragglers

from the Convention troops into the Country and not to rejoin their corps is to be observed.<sup>41</sup>

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON**

Head Quarters, November 20, 1778.

Dear Sir: Upon receipt of this letter you will be pleased to proceed immediately to Albany, or the place to which General Hand may have gone; previously, however, directing the two Regiments of your brigade to follow you, in case they have not already set out, and to wait your orders<sup>42</sup> at Albany.

General Hand receives my directions to take the command at the Minisink, in which I have (for the present) included Colonel Cortlandts Regiment, now at Rochester. You will deliver him the inclosed letter, left open for your information, in which I have desired a free communion of sentiment and co-operation of force. You will therefore consult with General Hand, on the plans he may have in contemplation, whether offensive against the Indians, or for giving greater security to the frontiers.

It is my wish that you should make the best possible disposition, and such arrangements as appear most consistent with your combined strength. I am, etc.<sup>43</sup>

[M.L.]

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41. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

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42. The draft has "further orders."

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43. In the writing of James McHenry.

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG**

The two Virginia Brigades under Command of Brigadier General Muhlenberg are to march by the following Route.

From Robinson's house Miles

to Kings ferry and there cross the River 14.

to Kakiyate 9.

to Peramus 12.

to Acquakanunk bridge 14.

to Newark 9.

to Spring field 9.

to Middle brook 19

Camp Fredericksburg, November 20, 1778.

Sir: You will have every thing in readiness and as soon as you hear that two divisions of the Convention troops have crossed at Fishkill you will begin your march by the above Route. You will either send your sick to Fishkill or lodge them at Robertsons House<sup>54</sup> as the Surgeons shall advise.

On your arrival at Middle brook you will be shewn the Ground allotted for your Troops to hut on. I am etc.<sup>55</sup>

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54. Beverley Robinson's, opposite West Point, N. Y.

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55. The draft is partially in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

## **To BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 20, 1778.

Sir: Since mine of the 16th. your missing letter of the 10th. and another of the 11th. have come to hand. A supply of Cloathing for the 4th. Pennsylvania Regt. and the Rifle Corps has been ordered up by Captn. Cobourn<sup>44</sup> of Colo. Alden's Regt. and I hope it may be arrived with them by this time.

The exigency of Affairs to the Northward having required an additional number of troops to be sent thither, I have ordered up the New York Brigade as being most convenient and suitable upon several accounts. Genl. James Clinton their own Brigadier going with them will of course supersede you, and as the whole force in that quarter will not admit of being divided into commands suitable

for two General Officers, I have thought it would be more agreeable to you to remove down to the Minisink settlement and take the command of a Body of troops which we are under the necessity of assembling there to protect that Frontier against the incursions of the Indians. The Corps at the Minisink will consist of Count Pulaski's Legion, Colo. Armands Corps and Colo. Spencers Regt. making about 500 Horse and Foot. Colo. Cortlands Regt. is at Rochester in the neighbourhood of Minisink. This Regiment, tho' part of Genl. Clintons Brigade, will remain under your

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44. Capt. Asa Coburn, of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

command for the present. The troops upon the Susquehanna (tho pretty remote) consisting of Colo. Hartley's Regiment and two independent Companies will also be under your general direction, should there be any means of cooperation. I have just heard that the Indians have again appeared at Wyoming and threaten that quarter seriously.

If you have in consequence of my last formed any plans of offence you will be pleased to communicate them to Genl. Clinton and repair as speedily as possible to Minisink and inform me upon your arrival there. As Govt. Clinton goes himself to the Frontier, he will be the best judge of the propriety of taking the ranging Companies into pay again. I send you a Copy of Colo Hartleys letter<sup>45</sup> by which you will perceive the situation of Matters upon Susquehanna. I am &ca.<sup>46</sup>

## To COLONEL WILLIAM MALCOM

Head Quarters, Fredericksburgh, November 20, 1778.

Sir: I have received your favours of the 12th. and 16th. You express a desire in the former to make a visit to Head Quarters to represent the state of the Garrison.<sup>47</sup> Unless the necessity be very urgent I wish you to defer it awhile, as the arrival

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45. This letter of Hartley's is not found in the *Washington Papers*.

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46. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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47. At West Point, N.Y.

of the Convention troops at the North River will make your presence at the Fort very necessary.



While they are near and passing the River, you will see the propriety of using the greatest vigilance and of having your guard boats constantly on the look out both across and down the river and well manned, as well to prevent desertion, as to be advertised in time of any attempt from below to effect a rescue, which though perhaps not a very probable is a possible event.

I thank you for the intelligence communicated in your last and wish you to continue your measures for obtaining advice of what is going on with the enemy. I am etc.<sup>48</sup>

**To COLONEL DAVID HENLEY**

November 20, 1778.

Sir: I received your two favors both of yesterdays date. I inclose you a form<sup>49</sup> something of the nature of that mentioned in my last. You will observe the important columns, or those most in our power to fill up, are the Regiments and corps, the works, their strength, where situated and by whom commanded. These ideas<sup>50</sup> may be obtained, with a good deal of precision

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48. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton

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49. A copy of this form is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Nov. 20, 1778.

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50. McHenry wrote, at first, "matters" and then changed it to "ideas."

from deserters and spies. But as most of the other objects are removed from common observation, they may only serve to perplex our observers, and may therefore be omitted unless where you find them very intelligent and attentive.

You may inform Colonel Sherman<sup>51</sup> that he may join his Regiment the moment the troops go into winter quarters, which will be in a very short time. This answer will also apply to those officers of the light corps who have requested furloughs as they will return to their respective Regiments and of course are comprehended in the general order on this subject.

The inclosures to Sir Henry Clinton<sup>52</sup> you will be pleased to send in by flag. I am &ca.

P.S. Above all things try to ascertain the corps and Genl. Officers which remain since the two embarkations.<sup>53</sup>

### **To COLONEL CLEMENT BIDDLE**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburgh, November 20, 1778.

In consideration of the absolute necessity of it to the public service, from the impossibility of procuring sufficient supplies otherwise; You are hereby authorised to impress forage necessary for the consumption of the army,

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51. Lieut. Col. Isaac Sherman, of the Second Connecticut Regiment. He was commandant of the Eighth Connecticut Regiment in October, 1779; transferred to the Fifth Connecticut Regiment in January, 1781; retired in January, 1783.

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52. "I am charged by Congress to transmit the inclosed resolution on the case of Lt. Colonel Conolly."— *Washington to Sir Henry Clinton*, Nov. 20, 1778. The resolution was that of November 17, confining Connolly to his room and forbidding any person to converse with him until the further order of Congress.

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53. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

from the inhabitants as well of this State in the vicinity of camp, as on the borders of Connecticut and those residing on the routes through the Jerseys, by which any body of troops shall march, having regard to the real wants of the inhabitants and paying the established price for what you shall so impress.<sup>58</sup> This Warrant to continue in force a month from the date hereof.<sup>59</sup>

[H.S.P.]

### **To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE**

Head Quarters, November 20, 1778.

Sir: I was favoured with your letter of yesterday. You will be pleased to observe the strictest silence with respect to C—,<sup>56</sup> as you are to be the only person intrusted with the knowledge or conveyance of his letters. I am etc.<sup>57</sup>

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON**

November 22, 1778.

Dear Sir: In consequence of a Letter this minute received

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58. Biddle had urged this on Quartermaster General Nathanael Greene, and Greene had written to Washington: "I am perswaded it will be impossible to subsist the Cattle belonging to the Army here [Fredericksburg] unless there is a Press Warrant granted to aid the Forage Master. I shall take great care that no improper use is made of the Warrant." Greene's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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59. In the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

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56. Aaron Woodhull, of Setauket, L. I., who sent in secret intelligence over the name of Samuel Culper.

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57. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

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from Colo. Bland who is conducting the march of the Convention troops and whose Van would be at Sharon last night, I am under the necessity of detaching a part of the Pennsylvania Brigades to escort them from thence to the North River. This detachment with the several guards furnished by them, leaves this pass almost destitute of Men. I therefore request that you will order One of the Connecticut Brigades to move as soon as possible to this Camp, that it may be secure against every possible accident. As the Brigade will only remain here while the Convention troops are moving to and passing the North River and will then return, you will order no more baggage to be brought with it than can be possibly helped. I am, etc.

P.S. I dont imagine Genl. McDougal has returned yet; but if he has you will be pleased to inform him, that I wish to see him, as soon as he can arrive here.

The Brigade coming to Camp can occupy its old ground or any that may be better.

The Connecticut Militia are not to guard the Convention troops farther than the boundary of the State, which makes the escort I have mentioned necessary from thence.<sup>81</sup>

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81. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

**To COLONEL THEODORICK BLAND**

Head Quarters, 8 O'Clock A.M., November 22, 1778.

Dear Sir: Yours of last evening reached me at day Break this morning. The Continental troops will march from hence in an hour and will have orders to proceed untill they meet the troops of the Convention. I have directed one hundred Men to advance quickly before the rest. You will therefore put the first division in motion as soon as possible after this reaches you, they may march the distance between Sharon and the place where they will meet the Continental troops even without an escort, tho' I hope some of the Militia will from Colo. Meade's letter,<sup>82</sup> be prevailed upon to come as far as Mabbits.<sup>83</sup> Altho' none of the Officers are to be permitted upon any terms to go into New York yet if they incline to write you may inform them that their letters shall be forwarded. I am &ca.<sup>84</sup>

**To COLONEL LAMBERT CADWALADER**

Head Quarters, November 23, 1778.

Dear Sir: I am to acknowledge your letter of the 7th. Ult., which I have this day transmitted the committee of arrangement

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82. Lieut. Col. Richard Kidder Meade's letter of November 21 from Sharon to Lieut. Col. Alexander Hamilton, a copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

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83. Samuel Mabbit, in Dutchess County, N.Y.

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84. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman

for their particular consideration.

You may be assured I shall be very happy if any mode can be settled by you and the Committee, which may give mutual satisfaction, or continue you in service.<sup>92</sup> I am, etc.

**To COLONEL THEODORICK BLAND**

Fredericksburg, November 23, 1778.

Sir: As you have not yet had a route given you beyond the North River, I am to desire that you continue the march of the Convention troops by way of New Windsor to Sussex Court House, to Hackets Town to Sherrards ferry by Pitts Town, to White Horse on the Lancaster road, to Lancaster and thence by the usual route through York in Pennsylvania, Frederickstown in Maryland [and Leesburg in Virginia]. In the further progress of the march, I shall not give you any particular directions; you will regulate it according to your own judgment, the information you receive and the arrangements of the Commissary with respect to provisions.

On the other side the North River, you will apply to Baron De Kalb, who has been directed to furnish proper escorts from his division to guard the troops as far

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92. Cadwalader had been made prisoner at Fort Washington, N.Y., in November, 1776, and was now on parole. The question was as to his right to a command when exchanged.

"I could wish the committee to consider, if there is any method, yet remaining, by which his scruples might be removed, and the affair settled in a conclusive and satisfactory manner."— *Washington to the Committee of Arrangement of Congress*, Nov. 23, 1778. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

as the Delaware. I have written to the Board of War to obtain the necessary orders for the Pennsylvania militia to conduct you through that State, and to Governor Johnson to make the proper arrangements through the State of Maryland. To prevent a possibility of unnecessary delay, You will send on from county to County to the commanding officer of the militia in each to give notice of your approach to their respective limits and the precise time you expect to arrive, and you will give this warning a sufficient time before hand, to allow ample leisure for calling out the militia. In Pennsylvania you will pass through the Counties of Bucks, Philadelphia, Lancaster and York.

The distance of the Seat of Government in Virginia, from those parts through which you pass, prevents my calling in the usual way for the escorts of Militia through that state; I have written a

circular letter to the Commanding Officers in the several Counties, which you will transmit as you advance in the time and manner you judge most convenient.

I send you herewith a warrant for Two thousand dollars, towards bearing the expences of your command, which you will hereafter bring into a general account. I am &ca.<sup>93</sup>

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93. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The words in brackets were inserted by Washington.

**To THE COMMANDING OFFICERS OF MILITIA IN THE COUNTIES OF LOUDOUN, FAUQUIER,  
CULPEPER, AND ORANGE<sup>94</sup>**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburgh, November 23, 1778.

Sir: Congress having directed the removal of the Convention troops to Charlotte Ville in the State of Virginia; it will be necessary that proper guards should be furnished from the Militia of the several Counties through which they pass, to escort them through their respective limits. I am therefore to request, that you will, on the requisition of Col. Bland, who is charged with conducting the march of these troops, furnish such a number of militia as guards to them, from the county in which you command, and at such time and place as the Col shall think necessary. I am etc.<sup>95</sup>

**To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 24, 1778.

Sir: I received yours of the instt.<sup>6</sup> by Mr. Dodge<sup>7</sup> and of the 16th. by Captn. Bailey.<sup>8</sup> Dodge is by far the best acquainted with the communication between the St. Laurence and Detroit of

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94. Virginia.

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95. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

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6. Date should be November 13. This letter of Gates is in the *Washington Papers*.

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7. John Dodge.

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8. Capt. Frye Bailey (Bayley), of the New Hampshire Rangers.

any person I have met with and should the situation of our affairs admit of an expedition by way of Lake Erie, he will be truly valuable, not only from his acquaintance with the country but from his knowledge of the Languages of the Western Indians. Several circumstances conspire to render an expedition into Canada this Winter impracticable. Had the Enemy so far have [sic] reduced their number at New York and Rhode Island as to have admitted of a detachment sufficient for such an enterprize, want of provisions only, in proper time, would have been an insuperable bar. When General Bailey came to make a collection of the Bread and Meat upon the upper part of Connecticut River he found the quantity to fall vastly short of the estimate delivered in at the White Plains. Instead of two Thousand Barrels of Salt Meat and from ten to twenty thousand Bushels of Wheat, he cannot furnish more than 1000 Barrels of the former, part of which was drove up from below, and a very trifling quantity of flour. Our magazines were so exceedingly exhausted by the Rhode Island expedition, the French Fleet and the Convention Troops, that the Commissary General would not engage for the supply of a Body of Men adequate to the purpose before the next Spring. However that we may be prepared to take advantage of any favorable opening which the circumstances of the Enemy may oblige them to give us next year, I have desired Genl. Bailey to go on laying up as much meat and flour as he can in that Quarter. Should the Enemy continue their operations upon the Coast the next campaign and oblige us still to turn our

attention that way, those magazines above may be brought down at small expence.

The Posts in the Highlands are very illy furnished with heavy Cannon and I find we can put no dependance upon the only quarter from whence we had any expectation. That was from Salisbury Furnace. The manager of which informs Colo. Hay that the Furnace is out of repair, and that there is neither ore nor coal, nor any one thing in preparation for a blast this Winter. If the Guns of the Sommerset are saved, her lower Deckers will answer the purpose. I could therefore wish you would endeavour to procure about Twenty of the heaviest, and if they can be obtained that they may be sent forward as soon as the hardness of the roads will admit, or when they are covered with Snow, which will be the easiest mode of carriage.

All appearances of an evacuation of New York this Winter seem to have vanished; they are from every account busy in preparing Quarters. [The Troops of the second embarkation are stoped.]

I have paid Capt. Bailey and his two Officers for the time they were detained in Canada and Colo. Wheelock is gone down to Congress to get Colo. Bedel's Regiment put upon some kind of establishment, which it has never yet been. When that is done there will be no more difficulty

in procuring their pay, Cloathing &ca. in the manner the others do. Be pleased to direct for me hereafter at Middle Brook in Jersey. I am &ca.<sup>9</sup>

[N. Y. H. S.]

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9. In the writings of Richard Kidder Meade. In the draft, which is in the writing of Tench Tilghman, the sentence in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

**To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL**

November 24, 1778.

Sir: You will forthwith proceed to the Highlands and take the command there. All the posts on the North River from Poughkepsie, inclusively downwards, will be comprehended within the limits of your command. The troops under you will consist of three Massachusetts brigades, Nixons, Pattersons, and Larned's and the garrison of West Point.

I need not observe to you that West Point is robe considered as the first and principal object of your attention. I am persuaded you will neglect nothing conducive to its security, and will have the works directed for its defence prosecuted with all the vigour and expedition in your power. You are fully sensible of their importance and how much their completion will ease and disembarass embarrass our future general operations.

One of the three Brigades may be posted at West Point, another at Fish Kill for the safety of the stores and the convenience of Barracks, and the other at Peek's Kill and the Continental village; but I leave it to your own judgment to adopt or alter this disposition as circumstances shall appear to you to require. I would recommend it to you to have your own Quarters at Peek's Kill, or in the Neighbourhood, for the purpose of obtaining early intelligence of what passes with the enemy; the better to take your

measures in consequence.

You will have an inclosed redoubt made on each side the River at Kings ferry, with a guard house in each sufficient to accommodate forty Men with their officers, which you will relieve occasionally, once a week may be best.



You will at your own discretion advance parties towards the White plains &ca. for the protection of the inhabitants. You will discourage a frequency of flags either to, or from the enemy; and only permit them when really necessary; paying however proper regard to the applications of the state when flags are required for particular purposes. You will not suffer any inhabitants to go within the enemys lines, except for the sake of procuring intelligence; but with the permission of the civil power, agreeable to a late resolve of Congress.

It is my wish you should use every possible precaution for having constant and exact information of the situation and movements of the enemy; of which you will be pleased to advise me punctually.

If appearances should indicate a serious movement of the enemy against your post, you will immediately apply to General Putnam for such aid as shall appear to you necessary, who will either succour you with the whole or a part of his force as may be found requisite. You will also give me the speediest notice of it.

You will improve every opportunity the

weather affords to exercise the troops, agreeable to the rules and regulations established for that purpose; and will pay the strictest attention to order regularity and discipline in every respect.<sup>10</sup>

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10. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

## **To COUNT PULASKI**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburgh, November 24, 1778.

Sir: Your favour of the 15th. by Count Kolkowski, I received a few days since. If I have a right idea of your situation at Rosecrantz it will fulfil the object intended. Cole's Fort appeared a good position for covering a considerable part of the frontier; but any place in the vicinity of it, will answer the purpose as well; and as the circumstances you mention, make that particular spot inconvenient on the score of subsistence, you will either remain where you are or choose for yourself such other position in the neighbourhood as appears to you best adapted to the accommodation of your corps.

The motives which incline you to leave this country, at the present juncture, are laudable. When you have arranged the affairs of your corps, you have my consent to go to Philadelphia as you propose. I assure you Sir, I have a high sense of your merit and services and the principles that influenced the part you have taken in the affairs of this country. The disinterested and unremitted zeal you have

manifested in the service gives you a title to the esteem of the citizens of America, and have assured you mine.

I gave Count Kolkowski a letter to Congress<sup>11</sup> in which I communicated your request.

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11. See note to letter from Washington to Count Casimir Pulaski, Nov. 10, 1778, *ante*.

I have ordered Col. Spencer with his regiment, Colo. Armand with his corps and Captn. Schot with a party under his command to join you as speedily as possible; The more effectually to enable you, or the Officer commanding to repel any attempts of the enemy in the quarter where you are.

As you have signified to me your intention to return to Europe immediately, I have ordered Brigadier Genl. Hand to repair to Minisink and take the command. I am, etc.<sup>12</sup>

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12. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

Only the parole and countersigns are given for November 25, and these are followed by the note: "The Army marching by Brigades into Winter Quarters."

## **To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM**

Head Quarters, November 25, 1778.

Dear Sir: I this morning received your favour of the 24th. Instant.

I am well pleased with your Orders to Genl. Poor to proceed immediately to Danbury, and to Colo. Badlam<sup>13</sup> for escorting in his room the Rear divisions of the Convention troops to Fish Kill.

There has never been any regulation of Congress, authorising Officers and Soldiers on furlough to draw their Rations in the Country, and it can never be done without endless inconveniences. The proceedings of Congress suppose a different idea, and under that part of the Establishment of the Army which took place the 2d. of July, Officers have subsistence money allowed them in lieu and in exclusion of Rations even when

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13. Lieut. Col. Ezra Badlam, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment.

in Camp.

You will find your instructions within,<sup>14</sup> and perceive thereby, that I have prohibited all seizures of property by our parties under the idea of it's belonging to Tories. Under this pretext there have been many enormities committed, disgraceful to our arms and injurious in the extreme.

Your instructions do not mention the manner, in which the three Brigades under your command are to be quartered; but wishing the Army to be as little burthensome as possible to the Inhabitants of the Country, and that the Troops composing it's several divisions may lie compactly together, in order to their greater security, and better discipline and government, It is my desire that they should hut themselves as they did last Winter at Valley forge, where ever they can. This will be done by the divisions which quarter on the West side of Hudsons River, and I persuade myself that you and all the Officers with you will give proper attention to the manner of constructing the Huts. There were several last winter at Valley forge, which by the care of the Officers were not only comfortable but commodious, and in which the Men lived exceedingly well and preserved their health. These are considerations very important, and I have only to add, the sooner the Troops can be fixed the better. I am, etc.<sup>15</sup>

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14. These instructions are dated November 27, whereby it seems that they were either not inclosed or else this letter was not sent forward until that date. (See Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. Israel Putnam, Nov. 27, 1778, *post*.)

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15. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

## **To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 25, 1778.

Dear Sir: I am lard. with yours of the 15th. According to my present Ideas and expectations my Quarters for the Winter will be at or near Middle Brook, at which place the Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia troops will be hutted. Should Mrs. St. Clairs ill state of health require your attention, after your Affair before Congress is determined, I shall have no objection to your remaining with her, while the situation of the Army, in respect to General Officers, will possibly admit of it.

The enemy, from appearances seem to have given over all thoughts of evacuating New York this Winter. Reports say that a second embarkation, which had fallen down to the Hook, is returned. This is variously accounted for; but I do not think it at all improbable that the late disaster which

has befallen Byrons fleet may have disconcerted their operations. We have heard of the loss and damage of five of his Capital ships. I am etc.<sup>16</sup>

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16. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE**

Head Quarters, November 25, 1778.

Dear Sir: You will be pleased to detach a Captain, two Subs and Fifty Men who are to lay at Robinsons Mills near Mahopack Pond till the Rear of the Pennsylvania Troops are about passing the North River, then they are to follow and join their respective Corps. The intention of this party is to prevent any of the Convention Troops, under pretence of desertion, from passing that way to New York. The Captain will detach a Subaltern and sixteen Men to Isaac Beddoes about half a Mile from Robinsons Mills, and at the coming in of another Road, for the same purpose. The party of 50 to be furnished with six days provision.

The Virginia Troops will be upon their march from West Point to pass at Kings Ferry also, therefore to avoid crossing their line of march you are not to advance beyond John Jones's on the Road between the Continental Village and Kings Ferry untill their Rear are in your Front. You will then pass the River as soon after them as possible and continue your march to Middlebrook.

I would wish you to take all possible care to prevent the troops from burning fences or from committing any kind of Waste upon the property of the Inhabitants. I am &ca.<sup>17</sup>

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17. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL JACOB BAYLEY**

[November 25, 1778.]

Sir: Your favor of the 5th. Inst. was presented me by your son.<sup>18</sup>

The continuance of the enemy in this quarter, the hazard we should run by detaching from the army, the condition of our supplies in your quarter which [fall infinitely short of what I was led to expect]

with some other weighty considerations, make it necessary to suspend the expedition to Canada for this winter. But as I do not give up the idea of an enterprise at a more convenient season and [under more favourable circumstances] you will still exert yourself in obtaining an exact state of the enemies affairs and strength, particularising their Regiments and corps with the general temper of the Canadians.

The further procuring of Snow shoes with such articles as are only wanted in a winter expedition may be totally discontinued. But you may still assist in promoting, and increasing the magazines of flour in the places formerly marked out, to be ready when it shall be judged proper to reassume the expedition.

It would there is no doubt, be a desirable thing to have a quantity of provisions laid up in Canada, in the manner you propose, but should we encourage the frenchman which you

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18. Ephraim Bayley, who came to headquarters with Capt. Frye Bayley.

"I paid the money due to himself and his two Officers for the time they were detained in Canada. Colo. Wheelock is gone to Congress to represent the State of your Regiment....As an expedition into Canada is a thing of much uncertainty, at least as 10 time, I would not have you engage any of the Indians at present."— *Washington to Col. Timothy Bedel*. Nov. 25, 1778. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

mention, in this way it might serve only to point to our objects, and give the enemy an early alarm. This makes me rather hesitate on the propriety of employing him, even supposing his fidelity certain. He may however be used to answer other intentions, (such as giving information) at least till we are more determined on the expedition.

I am really unwilling to incur and accumulate the debt of the Continent by doing any thing at present towards cloathing the Indians you speak of. They must not however by a total neglect be suffered to get too much out of humor; you may furnish them with provisions, and must endeavour to preserve a good understanding, by civil treatment and without running into unnecessary expence.

It is not in my power at present to make you a remittance of the silver Dollars in your account; but I have drawn on the military chest for 5,000 Dollars which is put into the hands of your Son.

You will be pleased to persevere in clearing the road so long as the weather will admit of such duty.

As to appointing an issuing Commissary in your quarter, it is a matter which rests with the Commissary general. But at present there is no such officer necessary, when he is wanted I would suppose there will be no objection to the gentleman you mention. I am etc.<sup>19</sup>

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19. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

**To COLONEL DANIEL MORGAN**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 25, 1778.

Dear Sir: You are to remain at Pompton<sup>20</sup> untill the Rear Division of the Convention Troops has passed Chester on their Route to Sussex Court House. You are then to march to Middle Brook and receive directions from the Quarter Master General for the position of the Brigade under your command in the line of incampment. The Regiment sent to Hackensack is to remain there till ordered off or releived. I am &ca.

P.S. I have received yours of the 24th. When the Virginia Brigades are all assembled at Middle Brook I will consider of the expediency of granting Furloughs to those who will reinlist.<sup>21</sup>

**To COLONEL RICHARD PARKER**

Head Quarters, November 25, 1778.

Sir: I received your favor respecting Lieutt. White,<sup>22</sup> and presented the one it contained to his Excellency. I have it in command from him to desire you will have that Gentleman arrested for having killed Lieut. Greene<sup>23</sup> in a Duel, when the charge is

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20. Morgan was then commanding Woodford's brigade.

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21. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Boston Public Library.

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22. Lieut. Elisha White, of the First Virginia Regiment. After fleeing from camp he had returned to his regiment at West Point.

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23. ieut. John Green, of the First Virginia Regiment. He had died Apr. 29, 1778.

to be transmitted to the Adjut. Genl; this is a step the rules of the Army and a regard to propriety obliged the Genl. to take. I am etc.<sup>24</sup>

**To COLONEL DAVID HENLEY**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 25, 1778.

Dear Sir: You will perceive by the inclosed that there is a quantity of provision below and West of Bedford which will be sold to or taken by the enemy except it is removed before the light troops fall back. You will therefore send out parties, agreeable to Mr. Colts<sup>25</sup> request under good and careful Officers, who will be directed by Mr. Leak of Bedford how and where they are to proceed. They are to take no more from the inhabitants than what they intended for sale, or what they can spare without distressing their families. Nothing is to be taken by way of plunder under any pretence whatever. The Commissary is either to pay or give proper Certificates for whatever he takes. I am &ca.

P.S. You will keep every thing in readiness for the detachments to join their Corps whenever they are ordered which will be in a few days.<sup>26</sup>

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24. This draft is in the writing of and is signed "R. K. Meade."

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25. Peter Colt, deputy commissary general of purchases, Eastern Department.

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26. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original in the Library of Congress.

**To LIEUTENANT COLONEL UDNY HAY**

Head Quarters, November 25, 1778.

Sir: I have to acknowledge your favor of the 22d. Instant, with its inclosures.

Miss Tyneck<sup>27</sup> may be told how very glad I should be to oblige her with a pass to go immediately into New York, if it was not necessary in such cases to observe some general line of conduct.

The line which has been pointed out by Congress, and which I have adopted, is to grant passports to such persons only as have previously obtained permission from the Executive of the State to which they belong. I would therefore wish Miss Tyneck to take the trouble of procuring this from Governor Clinton, (and I make no doubt but he will readily grant it).

But in case of Governor Clinton's absence, and

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27. Miss "Kitty" (Catherine?) Ten Eyck, of Half Moon, N. Y.

this cannot be procured at present, I have inclosed the Young Lady my passport, that she may not be detained waiting for his return.

I thank you for your endeavours to provide me with some Nuts, and am etc.<sup>28</sup>

## **To GEORGE MEASAM**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburgh, November 25, 1778.

Sir: I have seen yours of the 16th. to Mr. Tilghman inclosing a return of the Cloathing sent forward to this place and delivered at Hartford. The shoes and Blankets for Poors Brigade will be sent to them at Danbury and those for Pattersons and Learneds to Fishkills at which places they are to be quartered. I do not know what quantity of Cloathing or of what kind remains at Springfield, but I think you had better bring it on to Fishkill, where it will be in a very convenient situation to supply the troops in that neighbourhood, those in Jersey, and those to the Northward. Shirts are exceedingly wanted for a great part of the Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and Carolina troops who have not yet drawn, be pleased therefore to send a parcel forward to Middle Brook in Jersey as quickly as possible, as they will quarter near that place.

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28. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

Six hundred Blankets have lately arrived from France at Boston and are ordered to Springfield, let them come forward with all expedition. There are also upwards of 2000 suits of Uniform which came with the Blankets. If you will make me a Return of what you have at Springfield, I shall then be able to direct with certainty whether the whole shall be brought to Fishkills, but you may without waiting further orders send on all the French Cloathing, Shirts, and Blankets. Pray press Messrs. Otis and Andrews to forward shirts to Fishkill, as they are now more wanted than any other Article.



Let your next be directed for me at Middle Brook at Jersey. I am &ca.<sup>29</sup>

**To MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 26, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowledge your favs. of the 18th. 19th. and 20th. Instant. I inclose you the Commissions for Colo. Henleys Regt. which be pleased to deliver to Captn. Trescot<sup>35</sup> the commanding Officer. I laid yours of the 20th. before the Commissary General<sup>36</sup> who in Vindication of his department wrote me a Letter of the 25th. and sent me a Copy of Mr. Flints letter

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29. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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35. Capt. Lemuel Trescott. Washington wrote (November 26): "I am favd. with yours of the 17th. instant enclosing a Return of the Officers of Colo. Henley's Regt. agreeable to which I have made out their Commissions and forward them to Genl. Sullivan to be delivered to you. Your Commission is filled up as Captain. I do not know the date of the Gentlemans Resignation who was appointed to the Majority of the Regt. but if you will obtain it, I shall, agreeable to my promise of promoting you upon a vacancy, send you a Major's Commission." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*. Trescott's majority accordingly dates from May 20, 1778.

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36. Jeremiah Wadsworth.

to you of the 30th. October and Copy of Mr. Champions letter of the 19th. Novemr. all of which I enclose to you. You will observe that Mr. Wadsworth, to put things in their regular Channel, offers to take whatever Flour Messrs. Clarke and Nightingale may have purchased, off their hands. If this is satisfactory, he would wave the matter of the enquiry mentioned in the former part of his letter, which would involve all parties concerned in a tedious and disagreeable dispute.

I have at this instant your favr. of the 23rd. with its inclosures, so far as respects the Commissary is answered by the above. I hope your surmises of the evacuation of Rhode Island may prove true.

Be pleased to address your next to me at Middle Brook New Jersey for which place I am setting out and near which I expect to make my quarters this Winter. I am &ca.<sup>37</sup>

## To BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND

Head Quarters, Fredericksburgh, November 26, 1778.

Sir: When I first ordered troops to the Minisinks, Coles fort on the Delaware was recommended to me, as a proper place for them to be posted at, covering at the same time a part of the Frontier of New York, New Jersey and Pensylvania, agreeable to which,

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37. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

my directions to Count Pulaski were given. But the Count, on his arrival in that quarter, has represented to me the impossibility of taking post at Cole's Fort, that place and its environs having been desolated by the enemy, and being quite destitute of forage. I have since directed him to make such a disposition of his corps, as appeared to him best calculated for its accommodation, so as to be as near as possible to the place originally intended. When you arrive at Minisink you will dispose of these and all the other troops, under your command, on the same principles; attending as much to their convenience and easy subsistence, and to the convenience of the inhabitants as you can consistent with the main object of your command. You will then inform me where the troops are posted. I am etc.<sup>38</sup>

## To COUNT PULASKI

Head Quarters, November 26, 1778.

Sir: In the inclosed letter, you will find an answer to yours by Colo. Kolkowski; since writing which I am favoured with yours f the 22nd. I shall only add to what I have already said on the subject, that you will keep your cavalry as near as you can to the place first pointed out, consistent with a proper

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38. In the writing of Alexander Hamilton. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

supply of forage and subsistence without too much distressing the already distressed inhabitants. If this cannot be done where you now are, you will remove them to some other place.

If your cavalry must be sent to any considerable distance, your infantry can still remain, in the vicinity of Coles Fort. General Hand will soon be at the Minisinks, whose knowledge of the Country will be

useful in making a proper disposition of the troops. The inclosed letter to him is to be delivered on his arrival. I am etc.<sup>39</sup>

## **To THE OFFICER COMMANDING SHELDON'S DRAGOONS**

Head Quarters, November 26, 1778.

Sir: You will forthwith proceed to Durham, between New Haven and Hartford in the State of Connecticut, with your Regiment of Cavalry, where you are to fix your quarters for the winter.

In quartering the Regiment at Durham you will preserve as much compactness as the nature of the place will admit, that by having them all under your own eye, you may be able to keep up good discipline, and prevent dissipation and irregularity.

It is not designed that the Regiment should do ordinary duty, or be called out upon every common occasion. But in case of invasion, or the advance of the enemy, you are to

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39. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

obey the orders of General Putnam, and assist in giving them every opposition.

The horse are not to be made use of as hacks. The men should be strictly forbid riding them as such, and when discovered in the practice, punished severely. Nor are they to be ordered by the officers on messages, or in the execution of any private purpose.

You will direct the utmost attention to the horse, that they may come into the field in the best possible condition for service.

Such of the arms and accoutrements of the Dragoons as are out of order are to be repaired, and every thing completed by next campaign.

You will regulate the furlowing of the officers of the Regiment by the rule established in the general order of the 2nd. Inst.

No officer is to make use of the public horses and those who now use them are to discontinue the practice, unless there is a resolve of Congress in being, or till one can be obtained for this purpose.

A field officer is to be allowed forage for four horses only including his servants. A captain forage for 3 horses including his servants, and a subaltern forage for two horses including his servants.<sup>40</sup>

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40. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

**To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM**

Head Quarters at Fredericksburg, November 27, 1778.

Sir: You are appointed to the command of the Brigades of Poor, Parsons and Huntington which are to be quartered this Winter at Danbury.

You will keep a succession of small parties down towards the enemy's lines, mostly towards the Sound as Genl. Mcdougall will guard the North River to watch their motions, prevent small parties from penetrating too great a distance into the Country, and to gain any intelligence which may be collected: But the Officers are to be charged in the most express manner, not to meddle with or bring off any Cattle, or Horses, [unless they should be found driving into the Enemys lines; or in eminent danger of being taken by them; in either of which cases they may be brought off but are not to be considered as the private property of the Party; but delivered to the Commissary and Quarter Master for the use, of the Public] who are to pay the owners when brought off to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy, nor are they to take any other kind of property from any persons under pretence of its belonging to Tories.

You are not on any account to suffer persons, Inhabitants of the United States to go within the enemy's lines without they produce a written licence from the

Governor or Civil Authority of the State to which they belong [agreeably to a mode pointed out by Congress.]

As many inconveniencies arise from Flags of Truce being sent from a variety of Quarters, you are desired, if applications are made to you on that subject, to refer them to [me unless such application is made by the Governor, or the Executive power of the State in which you are, in that case the request is to be complied with in the first Instance.]

No small parties are by any means to be permitted to go upon Long Island. The most shameful abuses have been committed [and injurious consequences arisen] from such parties, who make no discrimination between the inhabitants, many of whom, altho' obliged to remain there, are

well affected to our Cause. Should there be any necessity of sending particular Officers over for intelligence, [you must make choice of such as you can be responsible for, that the end may be answered.] Nevertheless should the enemy, by advancing a party upon the Island to any considerable distance from the main Body, put themselves in such a situation as to afford a prospect of making a stroke at them with success, I would not mean by the foregoing to prevent such an enterprise from taking place. Even in that case, the Officer commanding should be charged to attend to his military object solely, and not, by suffering his Men to run up and down after plunder, lose any advantage which he might have gained.

If the Enemy make a demonstration of acting

upon the North River [and] you [shd.] receive information [thereof] from General McDougall; [A Brigade] of the troops at Danbury are to proceed immediately towards the posts in the Highlands [and another held in readiness to follow, or act otherwise as circumstances may require.] They may probably at the same time make a move as if towards Danbury: but it will in my opinion be only to create a diversion in favor of their real design upon the Highlands, the loss of which would be of the utmost consequence [to the United States] while Danbury is no [more an] object [than Bedford or any other little Village.]

As the good order and discipline of the Troops during the Winter will depend upon a proper number of Officers being constantly in Quarters with the Men, you will, in granting Furloughs endeavour to observe the following Regulations as near as possible.

No Regiment to be without two Field Officers at one time but in extraordinary Cases.

No Company to be without two Commissioned Officers at a time but in like Cases.

No Regiment to have more than twenty Men upon Furlough at a time, that Number to be proportioned among the Companies.

When the Weather will permit, you are to see that the Brigade Inspectors attend to the Manœuvre and discipline of their respective Brigades upon the plan introduced the last

Campaign.

You are to take every measure to prevent and severely punish marauding or any insult to the persons or destruction of the property of the inhabitants by the Soldiery. Particular attention is to be paid to keeping a stock of Fire Wood which will take off every pretence for consuming Fences or out Houses. As soon as the Brigades have fixed upon their Ground for hutting and have drawn

the timber necessary for building, the Quarter Master is to be directed to send away as many draught and other Horses as can possibly be spared. They are to be sent to such places as are out of the communication between the North River and Boston, that they may not consume the forage necessary for the teams transporting provision and Stores.

Monthly Returns are to be made regularly to the Adjutant Genl.<sup>41</sup>

### **To LORD STIRLING**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburgh, November 27, 1778.

My Lord: I am indebted to your Lordships several favors of the 17th. 19th. 20th. and 21st. Inst.

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41. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

The inclosed to Mr. Beatty Commissary of prisoners you will be pleased to transmit by a special messenger. In case of his being within the enemy's lines you will send it by flag. It is to direct his attendance at Amboy, where commissioners on the part of Sir Henry Clinton are to meet Commissioners on our part on the 7th. of December, to treat upon an exchange of prisoners.

I have nothing of a particular nature for your Lordships attention. I expect to leave this place to morrow for my quarters in the Jersey, and shall take Elizabeth Town in my route. I am, etc.<sup>42</sup>

### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 27, 1778.

Dear Sir: In a letter from General Hand of the 20th. instant, he transmitted a memorial from Major Whitcomb (who commands a Corps of Rangers) to Congress, in which he complains of want of regular pay for his own Corps and three companies of provincials under his command, who were engaged till December. The principal bar to obtaining his pay seems

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42. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

to have been the want of being properly mustered. Genl. Hand in his letter says he had desired a Deputy Muster Master to go up to these Corps. If therefore their pay Rolls are produced to the pay Master at Albany made out agreeable to the musters be pleased to direct him to discharge them, and to continue so to do in future upon application made in proper form.

I shall set out for Middle Brook in Jersey to morrow, at which place I shall expect to hear from you when any thing material occurs. I am &ca.

P.S. If Genl. Hand should not have left Albany be pleased to inform him that the German Battalion is ordered to Easton to be ready to march to the Frontier should circumstances require it.<sup>47</sup>

**To COLONEL DAVID HENLEY**

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, November 27, 1778.

Sir: The Army is ordered to Winter Cantonments at the following places Viz:

Parsons

Huntingtons to Danbury

Poors

Pattersons Fort Arnold at West Point.

Nixons Continental Village near Peekskill.

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47. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the photostat kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

Learned's Fishkill.

Clarks (No. Carolina) Smiths Clove and West side of Kings Ferry.

Woodfords

Muhlenbergs

Scotts

Smallwoods Middle Brook in Jersey.

Hall 2d. Maryland

Waynes

Irwin<sup>48</sup> 2d. Pennsylvania

Dubois

Vanschaicks Regts. at Albany

Livingstons

Courtlandt .at Rochester, between the Minisink and Æsopus.

On Tuesday next unless you receive orders to the contrary, you will direct the officers to march the men which compose your Light Corps to the different Regiments to which they belong by the nearest routes to the above Stations.

Inclosed you will find your Commission dated agreeable to the determination of the Committee of arrangement, those for the Officers of your Regiment were forwarded to them a few days past.

I shall set out to morrow morning for Middle Brook in Jersey by the way of Fishkill, Kings ferry and Elizabeth Town. I am, etc.<sup>49</sup>

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48. Brig. Gen. William Irvine.

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49. The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

**To JOHN BEATTY<sup>43</sup>**

Head Quarters, November 27, 1778.



Sir: You will be pleased to give your attendance at Amboy on the 7th. December ensuing, where Commissioners on our part, are to meet Commissioners on the part of Sir Henry Clinton, for the settlement of an exchange of prisoners. You will receive your instructions from Colonels Harrison and Hamilton the Gentlemen I have appointed on our part. I make no doubt but you will be prepared with such papers as may be necessary in the course of this commission. I am, etc.<sup>44</sup>

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43. Commissary General of Prisoners of the Continental Army.

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44. Richard Kidder Meade, who drafted the letter, addressed it to "Col." John Beatty, but the "Col" was afterwards stricken out.

### **To COLONEL THEODORICK BLAND**

[Fishkill] November 29, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have written to Lord Stirling to day<sup>66</sup> to order a Subaltern with 16 Dragoons of Moylan's Regiment to proceed to Sherards ferry and put himself under your command.

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66. "Colo. Bland is in want of a party of Light Horse to assist him in the Escort of the Convention Troops, be pleased therefore to order a Subaltern and 16 from Moylans Regt.... Let the party take their necessaries with them as they will rejoin their Regiment in their Winter Quarters."— *Washington to Lord Stirling*, Nov. 29, 1778. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

When you arrive at Fredericktown in Maryland, if you should suppose you will still have occasion for Horse, you will relieve the party from Moylan's, by taking an equal or inferior number from Baylor's, if the state of the Horses will admit, in which case the former are to rejoin their Regiment at Lancaster; but if the State of Baylor's will not admit of the detachment,<sup>67</sup> you must retain the party from Moylan's as long as you judge it necessary, after which you will order the Officer to return with it by the best and shortest route to join his Corps. I am etc.<sup>68</sup>

[N.Y.P.L.]

### **To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE**

Head Quarters, Fish Kill, November 29, 1778.

Sir: I am favoured with your letter of this date, inclosing one from C—. <sup>63</sup> His account has the appearance of a very distinct and good one and makes me desirous of a continuance of his correspondence. At the same time, I am at a loss how it can be conveniently carried on as he is so scrupulous respecting the channel of conveyance. It will be indispensable for you to be with your regiment, and it would be too circuitous and dilatory, to have his communications pass through you at the station to which you are going. I wish you could fix upon some Officer at Danbury, in whose discretion,

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67. "Should Colonel Bland call upon you for a party of Horse from Colonel Baylors Regt. you are to furnish him with it."— *Washington to the Commanding Officer of Baylor's Dragoons*, Nov. 29, 1778. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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68. In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison

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63. Samuel Culper.

your correspondent would be willing to confide, or the matter might possibly be so managed that his letters might pass through that officer to me, without his knowing the person from whom they came. But any way, you can fall upon, in which the purpose of procuring his intelligence with expedition can be answered will be agreeable to me.

If you think you can really depend on C—s fidelity, I should be glad to have an interview with him myself; in which I could put the mode of corresponding upon such a footing that even if his letters were to fall into the enemys hands, he would have nothing to fear, on that account.

I am sorry, I cannot send you the money you request per bearer; All the Specie in my possession is with my baggage from which I shall be for some days separated. But if I am not mistaken, there is a sum about equal to what is now wanted in the hands of Colo. Henley, whom I have directed, in the letter accompanying this, <sup>64</sup> to pay what he may have, to you. You will apply to him accordingly.

Specie is so scarce an article and so difficult to be procured, that we must use great œconomy with it. If Continental money can be made to answer the purpose in part, it will be a very desirable circumstance, as it will facilitate the necessary supplies. I am, etc. <sup>65</sup>

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64. "I do not exactly recollect what sum of hard Money General Scott left in your hands, but whatever you may now have be pleased to pay to Major Talmadge, who has occasion for it for a special purpose, and let me know the Amount."— *Washington to Henley*, Nov. 29, 1778. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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65. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

## **To MAJOR HENRY LEE**

Fishkill, November 29, 1778.

Dear Sir: I just now received a Letter from His Excellency the Governor of this State, transmitting a general complaint from Major Strang and Mr. Hyat<sup>69</sup> against your Corps, and a particular one against Lieutt. Carries<sup>70</sup> for an irregular seizure of forage, and against yourself for refusing to suffer the sheriff to arrest him for it, and demanding him to be delivered to the Civil Magistrate, as you will perceive by the Inclosed.

This complaint I confess gives me extreme pain, as there is nothing I wish so much as a perfect good understanding and Harmony between the Inhabitants and every part of the Army. Mr. Carnes must be amenable to the civil authority, and the Sheriff or other Officer must be permitted to execute the

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69. Maj. Joseph Strang, of the Westchester County (N. Y.) Militia, and Nathaniel Hyatt, jr. Their complaint, dated Nov. 25, 1778, is in the *Washington Papers*, along with Governor Clinton's forwarding letter of November 26.

"I have written to Major Strang and Mr. Hyatt, inclosing a Letter to Major Lee....I have also advised them that the Corps is under marching Orders for Jersey, that they may not defer the arrest, if they think proper to make it."— *Washington to Gov. George Clinton*, Nov. 29, 1778. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*. The letter sent is in the possession (1934) of Mrs. Emory Clapp, of New Orleans.

Washington's letter to Strang and Hyatt, which is also in the *Washington Papers*, is practically a recital of what he wrote to Governor Clinton: "I have informed Major Lee...that Lt. Carnes must be amenable to the civil authority, and that he is not to prevent the Sheriff from executing the process he may have against him."

70. Lieut. Patrick Carnes, of Lee's Dragoons. He was a captain in Pulaski's Legion in 1780.

process against him without interruption, that the matter may undergo legal inquiry and decision. I am, etc.<sup>71</sup>

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71. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

### **To COLONEL WILLIAM MALCOM**

Fish Kill, November 30, 1778.

Sir: I intended in my way to the Jerseys to have called at West Point; but being detained here by the weather, much longer than I expected to stay, I find it necessary to decline my proposed visit to the Garrison. I am to inform you that General McDougall is appointed to take the command in the Highlands. You will therefore receive your future orders from him. I am, etc.

P.S. Your favour of the 27th. with the inclosed return is received.<sup>72</sup>

### **To LIEUTENANT COLONELS ROBERT HANSON HARRISON AND ALEXANDER HAMILTON**

Head Quarters, November 30, 1778.

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72. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

His Excellency Sir Henry Clinton having by a Letter to me of the 10th Instant, made a proposition to the following effect, viz. "to exchange the Officers of our Army who are prisoners on parole or otherwise in his possession, for the Officers and Men of the Troops of the Convention, according to the customary proportion, or according to such proportion as might be determined, by Commissioners appointed on both sides."

And the Honorable the Congress having authorised me, by an Act passed on the 19. Instant, "to appoint Commissioners to confer with such as are or may be appointed by Sir Henry Clinton, on the exchange proposed by him; and directed that Officers of equal rank be first exchanged, after which, if it should be necessary, an equivalent of inferior for Superior Officers: and if agreeably to such equivalent, all the Officers of the Enemy shall be exchanged and a ballance of prisoners remain

in their hands, then an equivalent of privates is to be settled according to the customary proportion or such proportion as may be agreed on."

In virtue of these powers, You the said Robert Hanson Harrison and Alexander Hamilton are appointed and I do hereby appoint You Commissioners, to repair to Amboy in the State of New Jersey on Monday the 7 of December, then and there, or at such other place as shall be afterwards mutually agreed on, to confer, agree, and determine with the Commissioners nominated or to be nominated [on the part of Sir Henry C.] and who shall be properly authorised, upon an exchange of prisoners, agreeable to the terms of the said recited Act;

for which this shall be your Warrant; and your engagements being mutually interchanged, shall be ratified and confirmed by me.<sup>73</sup>

#### **To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM WASHINGTON<sup>74</sup>**

November 30, 1778.

Dear Sir: I received your favor last night and have the pleasure of transmitting your Commission which had just come to hand before in a Letter from the President.<sup>75</sup>

Full instructions were made out for Bayers Regiment, but by accident they were put up in the paper Chest with the baggage. They shall follow you as soon as possible. In the mean time you will put the Regiment in motion and proceed with it as fast as you can to Fredericktown in Maryland where it is to quarter unless it can be better accommodated with Hay and forage at Hagerstown, in which case you will take

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73. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The words in brackets have been crossed out. In a contemporary copy of this document, in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, under date of Nov. 20, 1778, this phrase is written: "by Sir Henry Clinton."

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74. Of the Third Continental Dragoons.

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75. President of Congress.

your Station at the latter.

I wrote Colo. Bland yesterday that I had ordered a Subaltern with 16 Dragoons of Moylans Regt. to join him at Sherard's ferry, to be relieved by a like or an inferior party from Baylor's when he gets to Fredericktown if the state of the Regiment would admit of it, and gave him a line to the Commandg. Officer for the purpose. You will settle this matter with him when he arrives there as circumstances will justify. If you are not brisk he will be there as soon if not before you.

With respect to Cornet Baylor,<sup>76</sup> I am sorry he should have remained in arrest so long, and were he not charged with Gaming, I would release him from it; but as he is, you will direct a Court to sit when you get in Quarters. There will be several of the Officers of Bland's Regiment at Winchester, who can compose it in part. I am, etc.<sup>77</sup>

**To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE**

Elizabeth Town, December 4, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your

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76. Cornet Walker Baylor, of the Third Continental Dragoons. He was made a captain in February, 1780, and resigned in July, 1780.

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77. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison,

last letters of the 30th. Ult. and the 1st. Inst. which met me on the way to this place.

If Mr. Wallace<sup>83</sup> can spare two rooms below Stairs, it will make our quarters much more comfortable, as well as render them more convenient for public business. You will endeavour therefore to concert measures with Mr. Wallace for this purpose.

I consider with you the line of communication to the Eastward much endangered by leaving Paramus exposed, and shall order the Carolina brigade to that station and its vicinity.

The New York paper of the 2nd. speaks of the taking of Colo. Ward<sup>84</sup> and Capt. Bradford<sup>85</sup> as an enterprise of spirit conducted by tories, thro' a great many hazards.<sup>86</sup>

From a late application it is necessary to detach a regiment to Trenton and another to Philada. for the security of the public stores. As I think of breaking in upon Genl. Woodford's brigade, you will in the plan for hurting have respect to this diminution.

I shall endeavour to reach the quarters you have allotted me by that time Major Gibbs may have made his arrangements. I am, etc.<sup>87</sup>

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83. John Wallace, who lived about 4 miles west of Middlebrook. (See note 21 p. 385.)

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84. Col. Joseph Ward, Commissary General of Musters of the Continental Army. He became Commissary General of Prisoners of the Continental Army in April, 1780, and remained such to the close of the war.

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85. Capt. William Bradford, jr., Deputy Commissary General of Musters. Heitman lists him as a lieutenant colonel from April, 1777; he resigned in April, 1779.

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86. Rivington's *Gazette* reported the captures as "one of the Rebel Muster Masters General, named Ward, heretofore a School-Master at Boston, and his Deputy, Captain Bradford, said to be the son of Mr. Cornelius Bradford."

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87. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

## To **BARON DE KALB**

Elizabeth Town, December 4, 1778.

Sir: I have just received information, that the enemy have sent fifty two sail of vessels up the North River. What may be the design is not easy to determine; but if any thing serious is intended it must be one of three things, to make a stroke upon the forts, to rescue the Convention troops, or to intercept our line of march. To prevent their succeeding in the first, I am to desire, you will immediately move by the shortest route towards West point, advising the commanding officer there of your approach, and divesting yourself both of baggage and artillery, if necessary to facilitate your communication. To prevent the second, you will send the information, I now give you, to Colo. Bland, and urge him in my name to hasten on the Convention troops as fast as possible to the Delaware and to redouble his vigilance to suppress any effort on their part. Should the danger of a rescue become eminent, he will take such measures as necessity shall dictate.

Colo. Clarke with his Brigade will remain in the Clove for the security of that pass.<sup>88</sup>

I do not mean however that the directions here given should be so absolute as to preclude your deviation from them if your intelligence should make a compliance

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88. See Washington's letter to Col. Thomas Clark, December 4–7, under Dec. 7, 1778, *post*.

unnecessary or improper. In this case you will act according to your own discretion, in which I am persuaded you will act with the greatest circumspection. I am etc.<sup>89</sup>

#### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE**

Elizabeth Town, December 4, 1778, 10 OClock P.M.

Dear Sir: I have just recd. intelligence that the Enemy moved up the North River yesterday with 52 sail of Transports, they had proceeded this morning as far up as Closter which is above Fort Lee. What is their intent I do not know. I desire you will halt wherever this may find you, collect all your effective Men, and send your Baggage and Convalescents on towards Middle Brook. If you receive certain information that they have proceeded up towards the Highland Posts, you are to move towards Sufferans at the Mouth of the Clove. I would have you send a Messenger to meet Lt. Colo. Hay with the 500 Men belonging to your division. If they have passed the North River, let them join you as expeditiously as possible. If they should be still upon the other side, let Colo. Hay put himself under the direction of Genl. Mcdougall who may perhaps want assistance. I am &ca.

P.S. If any of the troops belonging to the light Infantry should be on their way to rejoin their Corps be pleased to detain them with you.<sup>90</sup>

[H.S.P.]

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89. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton and Tench Tilghman.

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90. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The draft, which is also in the writing of Tilghman, does not contain the P.S.

#### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG**



Elizabeth Town, December 4, 1778, 10 OClock P M

Dear Sir: I request that you will halt the Virginia troops wherever this finds you, if the Ground and Wood will admit of it; if it will not, I had rather you would countermarch them to the first convenient situation. You will collect the Troops and hold them in compact order, taking care to have them well supplied with provision and ammunition and ready to move on the earliest order. You will continue all the Heavy baggage on it's march and only retain what will be barely necessary for the Men and which they can carry. I don't mean that the Artillery or ammunition Waggons should be separated from the Brigades. I am etc.

P.S. I have just received authentic intelligence that the Enemy have several Ships moving up the North River with Troops and flat bottomed boats.<sup>91</sup>

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91. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

The same information was sent to Col. Daniel Morgan this same day (December 4), with orders to hold his troops ready "to act on the earliest order." Also, Washington wrote to Col. Thomas Clark practically the same letter as he wrote to Muhlenberg.

## **To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE**

Elizabeth Town, December 5, 1778.

Dear Sir: His Excellency was informed last night by a Letter from Colo. Febiger to Lord Stirling that 52 Vessels yesterday morning were proceeding up the North River with flat bottomed boats and supposed to have troops and were as high up then as Closter landing. We cannot tell what their object is, but the intelligence occasioned the General to send orders for halting all our Troops on the march, and himself and Lord Stirling to set out between four and five OClock this morning towards Acquaquinunck bridge, from whence they will proceed farther or return as circumstances point out. The Enemy certainly must have some Object, more than to divert us from Quarters, and I should suppose it One of three, to intercept our march, or to attempt a rescue of the Convention troops, or to attack the Highlands posts. For the first and Second, they must be too late and for the last I hope they are too weak. If Patterson and Learned's brigades are arrived at their ground and they must be, unless they have used the most cruel and wanton delay, the force in the highlands must be sufficient to resist their whole Army, especially when we take into consideration the aid which may

be derived from the troops at Danbury. At any rate we are sure Nixons brigade was in the pass in the mountains, on the other side,

the Carolina at the clove and several men in the fort, which, tho possibly they might not be equal to repel the Enemy, if in full force, would, very probably be sufficient to maintain their Ground till succoured.

This movement of the Enemy as I observed before, hurried His Excellency away this morning when he desired me to acknowledge his receipt of your favor of yesterday,<sup>93</sup> and said he could not determine which of the positions you mention best, without seeing them. Nor did he decide positively that I recollect as to his own Quarters, but I believe Mr. Wallace's is the place for such has been the *run* of of conversation and *family expectation* . You are very well acquainted with the General's ideas as to a proper situation for the troops I should suppose, and I would fain hope, the part you take will coincide with his sentiments. He designed to set out to day towards the intended incampment, which would have obviated every difficulty, but Sir Harry thought to interpose his manuvres. I dare say he will arrive as soon as or before the Troops, which may prevent some of the inconveniences you forbode. I must request you to excuse this hurried scrawl, for in truth, Hamilton and Myself are immersed in thought and difficulties about our meeting Colos. OHara and Hyde at Amboy on Monday not so much on account of the business, as because Amboy is destitute of Meat, bread and all the &ca. that you can imagine, but we are trying to put things in train. I am etc.<sup>94</sup>

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93. Greene's letter of Dec. 4, 1778, is not found in the *Washington Papers*.

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94. This draft is in the writing of and is signed by Robert Hanson Harrison.

## To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Elizabeth Town, December 6, 1778, 9 0Clock P M.

Dear Sir: I wrote you yesterday from this place in answer to your Letter to His Excellency on the subject of quartering the Troops. This minute Colo. Hamilton received a Letter from Doctr. McHenry dated to day at Paramus, with the following paragraph "desire Colo. Harrison to write to Genl. Greene on the subject of his Letter respecting a change of ground for hutting. He may tell Genl. Greene, that the situation marked out in the first instance seems to His Excellency the most eligible; but that Genl. Greene must be a more competent judge, to which place the preference should be given."

With respect to the movements of the Enemy the said McHenry writes thus. "We are informed by a Major of Militia that the Enemy's Vessels are near King's ferry, and it is said that a body of about 2,000 men are as high up as Tarrytown. Their Object would appear forage and provision to be collected between Kingsbridge and the posts at the Highlands." Genl Wayne is ordered to Sufferans; Genl. Muhlenberg to the same place; we shall move that way immediately."

Ham and I (this is against the rules of grammar, but it is consistent with those of modesty and the merits of the

man, therefore I'll let it stand) shall set out to morrow morning for Amboy by sun rise. I have nothing more to add, except to tell you, what I hope you already believe, that I am with very sincere respect and regard, etc.<sup>95</sup>

#### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG**

Paramus, December 6, 1778.

Dear Sir: You will be pleased upon receipt of this letter, immediately to put the troops under your command in motion with their field artillery and ammunition for Sufferance at the mouth of Smiths Clove, and there wait further orders.

You will divest yourself of your baggage, which is to be ordered on to the place appointed for winter quarters. You may bring a few tents in some of the Strongest waggons to serve in case of very bad weather for the security of the arms but you are not to encumber yourself with many, but to travel as light in every respect as possible.

I imagine you will find the route by the great falls to be the best, however you will make the necessary inquiry of those who know the Country. I am etc.

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95. This draft is in the writing of and is signed by Robert Hanson Harrison.

P.S. March only such men as are fit for service, let the invalids proceed with the baggage; you will also dispatch an express to Middle brook, for the Commissary Genl. and forage master Genl. to come on to Sufferance.<sup>96</sup>

**To COLONEL THOMAS CLARK**

Paramus, December 6, 1778.

Sir: I have received intelligence that the Enemys shipping had got as high up as King's ferry and that they had landed some Men on this side near Haverstraw. Be pleased therefore to move the Brigade, without their Baggage, to a good piece of Ground seven or Eight Miles towards the ferry. You had better march upon the Road nearest the mountain and not upon that through Kakiate. If the Enemy should have landed any men, you will send out scouts to reconnoitre them and if foraging seems their object, endeavour to keep them from penetrating the Country. If they keep in a Body and seem preparing for a design against the posts, keep your Men together also, prepared to act as Circumstances may require. I am &ca.<sup>97</sup>

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96. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

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97. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

**To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL**

Paramus, December 7, 1778.

Dear Sir: I received yours dated the 5th. at West Point early this morning. I was yesterday on my way towards the River when I met Major Platt's<sup>99</sup> letter from Haverstraw informing me that the enemy had fallen down the River again, and of the dispositions which had been made for their reception. By this letter I was releived from my principal anxiety which was, that perhaps Pattersons and Learneds Brigades might not have arrived. I cannot account for this odd manœuvre of Sr. Henry Clinton in any other way, than by supposing that he was misinformed as to the quantity of Stores at the ferry, or that it was a demonstration above, to forage with more security below. My latest accounts from New York inform me that thirty thousand tons of shipping have been lately taken up for Government service and that a general Embargo is laid. The occasion has not yet transpired.

The Board of War have called for a Regiment [or two] to guard the Stores at Philada. and Trenton. I can think of none more proper than Colo. Hogans<sup>1</sup> of Carolina at present at West Point. They are a tender set of people, but illy provided with Cloathing, and therefore require warm quarters. As I shall

leave Colo. Clarke with the North Carolina Brigade at this place [and Kakiate, for the security of the Communication with the No. River] he will

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99. Aide to McDougall. He served as such to close of the war, His letter is not found in the *Washington Papers*.

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1. Col. James Hogun, of the Third North Carolina Regiment.

be within supporting distance of the posts, and will more than compensate for the reduction of your present force by withdrawing Hogans, which be pleased to put upon their march to Philada. by way of Trenton as quickly as possible, directing the commanding officer to call upon me at Middle Brook on his way down. Be pleased also to direct him to take as many of his Convalescents with him as he possibly can. I have ever found it beneficial to the service and to contribute to the regularity of duty to keep Corps and Brigades as compact as possible. I would therefore suggest to you, if you have not already made other arrangements, to send the small Regiments of Patton and Malcom to the East and West side of Kings Ferry; throw one of the Brigades into the Fort intire, and hut or cover the two others at such places as you think most convenient. Colo. Clarke had sent down two hundred Men to the Ferry upon the Alarm. I have desired him, if he has not withdrawn them, to let them remain there untill you send a party to releive them, which be pleased to do quickly as the Brigade to which they belong is under marching orders to this place. Colo. Clarke will be instructed to fall Back to the pass of the Clove at Sufferans whenever the Enemy appear in force up the River, and take his further orders from you. The troops destined for the Middle Brook Cantonment are again upon their march to that place for which I shall set out tomorrow. I am etc.<sup>2</sup>

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2. The draft is the writing of Tench Tilghman. The words in brackets have been added by Washington.

## **To BARON DE KALB**

Paramus, December 7, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have received your favr. of the 5th. and am obliged by your ready compliance with my orders and the dispositions made by yourself for the security of the posts and Convention prisoners. The troops destined for the defence of the Highlands having arrived and the prisoners being by this time out of reach of any attempt from the Enemy, you will be pleased to begin your march immediately, for Middle Brook, calling in all the detached parties belonging to the division (except

the German Battalion) and sending orders to the Escorts to follow you to Middle Brook, as fast as they have delivered their respective charges to the Officers relieving them. I am &ca.<sup>5</sup>

## To COUNT PULASKI

Paramus, December 7, 1778.

Dear Sir: I had the pleasure of receiving yours by Captn. LeBrun,<sup>3</sup> at this place. The spare ammunition of the Army having gone on with the park of Artillery to Pluckemin, I have

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5. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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3. Capt. Lebrun de Bellecour, of Pulaski's corps, and later captain in Armand's legion.

given an order to have a proper supply sent on from thence. I have likewise given an order upon the Cloathier General for one hundred shirts. We have already made a distribution of what Blankets were upon hand. The Board of War are taking measures to procure a further quantity when you shall have a proportion.

The badness of the Roads at this season will render the transportation, of even a very light piece of Cannon, difficult. I have therefore declined sending it up at present; but should any offensive operation be determined upon, and it should be thought practicable to carry a piece or two of light Cannon thro the Woods, they can be sent up with more convenience when the Roads are hardened by the Frost.

I have directed the German Battalion to be stationed at Easton, with a view of ordering them to the Frontier should their assistance be needed. I have thought it better to let them remain there until wanted, than to send them up to consume your stores which I imagine are not very ample. I expect by the time this reaches you General Hand will have arrived. I am etc.

P.S. You will be pleased to be as careful as possible of the ammunition, delivering it out only when wanted, and ordering frequent examinations of the quantity delivered to see that

there is no unnecessary waste by the soldiery.<sup>4</sup>

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL JACOB BAYLEY**

Paramus, December 7, 1778.

Sir: Your two favors of the 23d. and 24th. Ultimo came to hand yesterday evening.

Lieut. Col. Wheelock, who has been with Congress, carries up with him their resolutions respecting Col. Bedel's Regiment to which I refer.

The communications in your letter of the 23rd. seem to be pretty general but I have not had time to give them a very attentive consideration. It is my desire that you would still continue your inquiries in the same line; for altho, the expedition, as I have mentioned at length in my last letter, is laid aside, for the present yet it may be resumed at a more convenient season. I would wish therefore to have every intelligence which can be procured from Canada.

You will find on the arrival of your son that I have sent you a supply of money. I am, etc.<sup>6</sup>

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4. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman and James McHenry.

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6. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

"In a letter lately written to Gen. Bayley I mentioned some of those reasons, which made it inexpedient to enter on a winter expedition. I could wish that our supplies and other circumstances were favorable to its execution; but as this is not the case it is necessary to suspend the enterprise for the present."— *Washington to Col. Moses Hazen*, Dec. 7, 1778. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

**To COLONEL WILLIAM MALCOM**

Paramus, December 7, 1778.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your two favors of the 2d. and 5th. Inst.

I do not doubt but that every thing has been done towards completing the works, which was in the power of an active intelligent and good officer. But as the fort is not now within the protection of the army, it is therefore

necessary to augment the number of garrison troops; and as these will be accompanied by a brigadier, it is impossible to comply with your wishes, however they may be agreeable to my own. A change of circumstances, and the situation of the army makes a larger force absolutely expedient.

Under this idea you will see the propriety of the alteration in the command, besides considering the good which always results to the service from keeping corps compact, and as much as may be under the eye of their own officers. I am etc.<sup>7</sup>

**To COLONEL DANIEL MORGAN**

Paramus, December 7, 1778.

Sir: On receipt of this letter you will proceed with the Brigade under your Command to middle Brook, where your Ground will be pointed out to you by the Quarter Master Genl. Colo. Clark has orders to relieve the Guard at Mr. Erskines, and I shall give Colo. Febiger instructions before I leave this place. I am etc.<sup>8</sup>

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7. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

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8. In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by E. F. Bonaventure, of New York City.

**To COLONEL THOMAS CLARK**

Elizabeth Town, December 4[-7], 1778.

Sir: As the Convention Troops will have passed above you by the time this reaches you, the object of your Station at the Clove will have been effected. You will therefore be pleased to move down to Paramus with the Carolina Brigade and quarter your Men in as compact a manner as the situation of the Buildings will permit. You shall, upon my arrival at Middle Brook receive more particular instructions. I would recommend it to you, as soon as you have taken post, to make yourself acquainted with the Roads leading to the North River and have pickets established upon them at proper distances from you. You are in no danger from any other quarter. Should the Enemy move up the River in any considerable force, you are immediately to fall back to your former position at Sufferan's and send your Baggage to Pompton. Colo. Morgan furnished Mr. Erskine at Ringwood Iron



Works with a guard of a serjeant and 12. be pleased to send the like number to releive them. They are to remain there during the Winter, as Mr. Erskine will be compleating some valuable surveys for the public.

Be pleased to make use of all means to cut off the intercourse between the Country and New York. You are upon no account to permit any inhabitant of the States of New

York or New Jersey to pass to New York without permissions under the hands of their respective Governors. Upon your arrival at Paramus you are to send the inclosed to Colo. Febiger<sup>9</sup> at Hackinsack. It directs him to join his Brigade, as soon as you have taken post. I am &ca.

Paramus Decemr. 7.

The Enemy having gone down the River, you will immediately proceed to put the foregoing into execution. Be pleased to let the 200 Men under Colo. Mabane,<sup>10</sup> if they are not already withdrawn, remain near Kings ferry until they are relieved by a party, which will be sent over by Genl. McDougal. I must beg you to be particularly careful to prevent the Soldiers from burning the fences of the farmers and committing other disorderly orderly acts. I am etc.

[P.S.] If Colo. Mabane should have been withdrawn from Kings ferry, be pleased to leave an officer and 50 Men at Kakiate until you receive further orders.<sup>11</sup>

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9. This inclosure, dated Dec. 4, 1778, is in the *Washington Papers*. It merely directs Febiger to join his brigade at Middlebrook.

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10. Lieutenant colonel and commandant of the First North Carolina Regiment. He was transferred to the Third North Carolina Regiment in June, 1779, and was taken prisoner at Charleston, S.C., in May, 1780.

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11. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. This letter was held over, and when that of December 7 was drafted, as above, it was added to the delayed letter of December 4 and the whole sent forward December 7. In the *Washington Papers* the December 7 portion is a complete draft in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade, with an indorsed instruction that it is to be added to the letter of December 4 to Clark.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM MAXWELL

Eliza. Town, December 8, 1778.

Sir: Upon my arrival at Middle Brook I shall furnish you with Instructions for the command at this post and its vicinity, at which you are to remain with the Jersey Brigade. I have at present to desire that you will take every measure to prevent an intercourse between the Country and New York and that no persons, inhabitants of these States, may be permitted to go thither or into the Enemy's lines without permission under the Hand of His Excellency the Governor of the State or myself. Neither are Flags to be sent, but at the request of the Governor or by my direction. I do not mean by the above to prevent you from sending the usual persons over for intelligence, and from allowing them to carry and bring such small matters as are necessary to cloak their designs. But I must beg you to keep a very watchful eye upon them,

and see that they do not abuse this indulgence by turning it into an extensive trade. I am &ca.<sup>15</sup>

#### **To COLONEL THEODORICK BLAND**

Elizabeth Town, December 9, 1778.

Dear Sir: Your favr. of the 6th. reached me at this place last evening. I am exceedingly sorry that you have been disappointed in finding the necessary Escorts of Militia in Pennsylvania as carrying forward the Continental troops at this season of the year will be attended with insuperable difficulties. They have to build their Hurts after their return to Middle Brook. The German Regiment which is part of the Escort is to be stationed at Easton<sup>16</sup> for a particular purpose and therefore cannot proceed with you. Rather than let the divisions halt, and thereby croud upon one another, I would have you take forward such number of Continental troops as are absolutely necessary, untill you obtain a sufficient Militia Guard. To effect this, be pleased to dispatch an Express to the Board of War informing them that the Militia have not turned out agreeable to order, and desiring them to apply again to the Governor and Executive Council for a more

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15. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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16. In Pennsylvania.

peremptory order to the County Lieutenants. Mention the number requisite that there may be no further misunderstanding. I should imagine that after the troops of the Convention have passed Delaware the Foreigners will require a very small guard. I mention this, that if you should not be able

to raise the full number of Militia, you may go on with the Foreigners weakly guarded rather than carry on the Continental Troops; which I must again beg you not to do but upon the most urgent necessity. I have no objection to Mr. Callisters<sup>17</sup> proceeding with you. I am &ca.<sup>18</sup>

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17. Lieut. Archibald McCallister(?), of the First Maryland Regiment.

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18. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

### To MAJOR GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 13, 1778.

Dear Sir: Upon my arrival here I found your favor of the 5th. Your own letter communicated the first hint that I ever recd. of any representations on reports made by the Board of War to Congress respecting you or your command in Philada.<sup>32</sup> The Board some little time ago applied to me for a Regiment or two to be stationed at Philada. and Trenton to do the Town Duties and guard the Stores, alledging that the militia complained of the hardship of being turned out for these purposes. I have accordingly ordered down Colo. Hogan's Regt. of North Carolina which is as much as I can [with propriety] spare. I [have never heard, nor is it my] wish to be acquainted with the causes of the coolness between [some] Gentlemen composing the Board of War and yourself. I most sincerely hope that they may never rise to such a height as to oblige either party to make a public matter of it, as I am under more apprehensions on account of our own dissensions than of the efforts of the Enemy. I am etc.<sup>33</sup>

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32. Arnold's letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

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33. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

### To BRIGADIER GENERAL ENOCH POOR

Head Quarters, December 14, 1778.

Dear Sir: This morning Capt. White handed me your

favor of the 5th. Inst.

While I am willing to gratify your inclination in a visit to your family, I could wish at the same time, that it might be as short as [convenient] with your affairs. It is by no means certain how long we shall continue inactive. It is expedient therefore to have [as many as] possible of the General [and other] Officers with the army this winter, least a small change in circumstances should render their presence indispensably necessary. You will I am persuaded accommodate your stay to these sentiments.

The arrangement is not yet definitely settled. But I would imagine the Officers may be ordered to take their respective commands agreeable to the late arrangement; as I have no doubt of its being ultimately confirmed by Congress. I am etc.

P.S. I inclose you a news paper by which you will observe that Congress have confirmed the arrangement. It came to hand since writing the above.<sup>34</sup>

### **CIRCULAR TO VIRGINIA BRIGADIERS<sup>35</sup>**

[December 14, 1778.]

Sirs: As it seems to be the General opinion of

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34. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

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35. Brig. Gens. Peter Muhlenberg, William Woodford, and Charles Scott.

the officers in the Virginia line that those men who have but a short time to serve would enlist, on being indulged with leave of absence untill the middle of April next; I would have you proceed on that business immediately, and the better to accommodate the matter it will be well, that it should commence thro out the line at the same time, when a sufficient number of men are enlisted to form a body worth marching off under proper officers. The Commanding officer of each Regt. will appoint one to take charge of such men as he may have enlisted, with instructions to march them in good order to the most convenient place where they may be dispersed and proceed to their respective homes, with positive orders to rendezvous at some fix'd spot at so early a season as will insure their arrival in camp by the middle of April next. As you are acquainted with the terms of enlistment it will

be unnecessary to repeat them, I shall therefore only request that every exertion may be used to accomplish so desirable an end, and wish your efforts may prove successful. I am &ca.<sup>36</sup>

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36. The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

**\*To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 15, 1778.

Sir: Without loss of time you will provide, and deposit at Albany Sail cloth, Rigging, Pitch, Junk, Iron and every other Material for Ship Building. I cannot at this Instr. give you either the kind or dimensions of the Vessels which are to be built as it is necessary for me to advise with good naval judges on this occasion before I resolve; but, that you may have some data for your government, say four Square rigged Vessels of Twenty guns each. Or ten large and stout row Galleys.

You will have an exact acct. taken of all the Batteaux which now are, or can be repaired (and got in order for hard Service) by the middle of April next, and transmit the same to Majr. Genl. Schuyler at Albany. This acct. is [ment] to comprehend all the Batteaux on Hudsons River and such others as can be spared and transported from the

Delaware to the former. Information of this kind will enable Genl. Schuyler to fix upon the number of New ones to be built, and your Deputy in that department will receive Orders from him accordingly.

You are to form Magazines of Forage at Albany and other places, under directions to be received from Genl. Schuyler, and you are to provide at Albany a number of felling axes, 3000, and a full and compleat assortment of Intrenching Tools; in doing these regard is to be had to such as can be spared from this, and other Posts, after the Hutting is compleated. All new made Tools should, besides having the public mark, be stamped with the initials of the Maker's name that impositions may more readily be detected and justice done the public, as great complaints are made of the defective quality of our Tools.

It may also be necessary to provide Bags for the transportation of short forage, the number necessary will be best known by a consultation with the officer at the head of that department, and the means of obtaining them. It will be proper also to know whether a number of Sleds (no matter how course and rough) could be had at a sudden call and fat cattle sufficient, obtained to draw them.

A Number of Ship and other Carpenters should be provided at Albany for the various purposes there wanted; their particular application will be

directed by Majr. Genl. Schuyler.<sup>37</sup>

**To MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE**

Head Quarters, December 16, 1778.

Sir: I received Yesterday the Inclosed Letter from Colo. Butler,<sup>39</sup> with one addressed to myself. As far as the interview *requested* depends on my concurrence there will be no objection; and whatever place may be thought proper for the purpose will be agreeable to me. I would add, however, if you meet Colonel Butler, that Elizabeth Town point appears to me most convenient for the occasion.<sup>40</sup> I am etc.<sup>41</sup>

**To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 16, 1778.

Dear Sir: As I expect shortly to be called upon by Congress to lay before them a general State of the Army with our

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37. The letter sent was in the writing of James McHenry and varied from this draft in spelling and capitalization only. It was in the possession of Capt. F. L. Pleadwell, U.S. Navy, in 1930. The word in brackets has been inserted in the draft by an unknown hand.

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39. Lieut. Col. William Butler, of the Thirty-eighth Foot, British Army.

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40. Lee at this date was in Philadelphia.

On this same day (December 16) Washington also wrote to Butler that there was no objection to the meeting and that Elizabeth Town point was the most convenient place.

Lee wrote to Washington (December 14) and Washington replied (December 26), granting permission for the meeting; he also wrote to Lieutenant Colonel Butler on that day, referring him

to General Maxwell, who was to manage the matter at Elizabeth Town. These letters are in the *Washington Papers*.

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41. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

Resources and prospects for the ensuing Campaign; I am collecting from the Gentlemen at the Heads of the several great departments their opinions of the present and future prospect of supplies in their respective lines. Your department (including Forage) being of the utmost consequence and the one in which I fear we shall be most distressed, I am to request you will draw me up such a state as will enable me to point out to Congress in a summary manner in what Articles you are most apprehensive of a deficiency; whether such deficiency is likely to arise from a real or artificial scarcity, and what will be the most probable means of remedying such evil. There are perhaps other matters, which do not strike me, which it would be proper and which you would wish to have represented to Congress. If there are I would wish you to include them, and I assure you that no exertions of mine shall be wanting to get them put upon such a footing as will conduce to the good of the service and the ease and reputation of your Office. I am &c.<sup>42</sup>

**To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL**

Head Quarters, December 16, 1778.

Dear Sir: I duly received your favour of the 9th.

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42. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

and am much obliged to you for the several particulars you communicate. The prize gained by Sir Henry seems hardly to have been worth the trouble of the expedition.

I am sorry that Col. Malcom is not sensible of the necessity which has deprived him of his late command. The very advantageous opinion I entertained of him made me wish it had been possible to continue him in it; but it could not have been done without giving just cause of dissatisfaction to many other deserving officers, besides injuring the service in some other respects, [as I mentioned to him in a Letter from Paras.<sup>43</sup>] I think the Colonel, on cooler reflection, will come to feel the force of the motives, which have occasioned the change.

You will detain Col. Gouvion with you till you hear further on the subject. General Du Portail, to whom, I generally leave the particular arrangements of his corps, is now at Philadelphia. Inclosed is a line for Mr. Gouvion directing him to continue with you 'till further orders.

I intirely approve the dispositions you have made, and have the most perfect reliance on your future good management.

There is a matter of no small importance in which, I shall be obliged to you, for your opinion, as speedily and fully as possible. The probable prospects of next campaign make it the part of prudence to be turning our attention towards Canada, and to be preparing as far as our circumstances will permit,

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43. Paramus, N. J. (See Washington's letter to Col. William Malcom, Dec. 7, 1778, *ante*.)

for operations in that quarter, either partially against those posts, which enable the enemy to distress our frontiers, Niagara &c., or, more extensively, for the union of that province to the confederacy, as the future posture of our affairs, may put it in our power to undertake. Perhaps the more partial plan may best suit with our resources. The reduction of Niagara, if it can be effected, is an event essential to the tranquility of the states. This is not to be accomplished, without destroying the enemy's naval force on Lake Ontario, the means of doing which is what I wish at this time to have your sentiments concerning. They have by the best information I can procure, three armed vessels on the lake, two of eighteen six pounders each and one small one with swivels. I presume you are informed of the nature of the navigation on the lake; it is said to be often very turbulent and difficult. The question then is, what kind of vessels, what number and with what force will give us a moral certainty of acquiring the necessary superiority on the lake? In determining this question we are to consider the time and means we have for building, the place where it will be best to build, the transportation of the vessels from that place to Lake Ontario, the facility of furnishing them with the number and size of cannon, which will be proper, and the possibility of the enemy's constructing other vessels on the lake in addition to those they already have there, by the time the season for beginning our operations arrives, or after they

are actually begun. These and many other particulars, which ought to be taken into consideration will occur to you; and after viewing the subject in all its lights, you will be good enough to favour me with your ideas at large.

The place where the vessels ought to be built is a point of material consequence; because as that is more or less remote from the object we have in view, our design will be the more or less easily discovered. If we should be obliged to build at Oswego, it might perhaps announce our intention



with too great certainty, whereas it might be better covered by building somewhere on the upper part of the Hudson, so as to create a jealousy for Lake Champlain; but the expediency of this must depend on the degree of difficulty in transporting the vessels after they are built. I need not suggest to you the necessity of secrecy in this affair. I am etc.<sup>44</sup>

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX**

Head Quarters, December 16, 1778.

Dear Sir: His Excellency desires you will inform him, as shortly and with as much accuracy as possible, what number of battering Cannon you have mounted in the park<sup>45</sup> and

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44. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

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45. The artillery park was at Pluckamin, N.J.

at the different Arsenals with their Calibres and whether there are any and what number not yet mounted, which might be got ready if wanted.

We have not a word of news. I am, etc.<sup>46</sup>

**To THE OFFICER COMMANDING PULASKI'S CORPS**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 16, 1778.

Sir: I am informed by the Qr. Mr. General that you have returned to Easton with the Horse of Count Pulaski's and Colo. Armands Corps, not being able to procure Forage at Minisink or in that neighbourhood. It will not be possible for you to remain at Easton, without the greatest inconvenience to the service, as you must consume that Forage which is necessary for the Teams upon the communication and a great deal of that which is intended for this Camp. Colo. Hooper<sup>47</sup> the Deputy Qr. Mr. Genl. has directions to canton the Horse under your command in such places as he shall find least liable to the objections above mentioned, you will therefore be directed entirely by him and remove to such place as he shall point out. That no more Forage may be consumed than is absolutely necessary, you are to divest yourself of all supernumerary

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46. This letter was signed by Tench Tilghman.

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47. Col. Robert Lettis Hooper, jr., Deputy Quartermaster General.

Waggon and Baggage Horses and of all Dragoon Horses unfit for service, which are to be delivered up to Colo. Hooper who will dispose of them in a proper manner. You are to take particular care that the Officers attend to their Men and Horses that they may be kept in good order and ready to be collected for service at a Moment's warning. I am &ca.<sup>48</sup>

### **To JEREMIAH WADSWORTH**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 16,<sup>49</sup> 1778.

Sir: I am so anxious to have large magazines laid in at Albany and on Connecticut river from No. 4 (or Fort Charles) up to the lower Co'os inclusively, that I cannot help again urging you to the utmost exertions in the execution of this business. At the same time I am desirous of knowing, whether from a more critical examination of your deputies you have cause to change your opinion with respect to the estimated quantities mentioned in your letter of the 16th. Ultó., and request that you will now say with as much precision as the nature of the case will admit;

1. How many days provision you can lay up at Albany for ten thousand men, including

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48. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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49. The date has been rewritten so that it is difficult to decide whether it should be December 15 or 16. The indorsement has it 16.

the followers of the army by the 1st. day of February next?

How many in like manner and time, for five thousand men at the lower Co'os?

Whether you could keep those two bodies regularly supplied at or advanced of those places afterwards; or whether you could provide for a larger number at those places especially at Albany?

In solving these several questions, the matter is to be considered in two points of view.

First on a supposition, that the enemy will evacuate these states, and that the army now in cantonments may be employed in those quarters.

Secondly, on a supposition that the enemy will remain, but that we may have it in our power to transfer the greatest part of this army, Northward, in addition to those troops at Albany; leaving only such a force, as may serve to give countenance to the country, and prevent depredations, implying at the same time the militia which may be called in for this purpose. I am etc.<sup>50</sup>

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50. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The last clause seems to have been confused through hurry; it should read: "implying at the same time that the militia may be called in for this purpose."

**To JOHN BEATTY<sup>53</sup>**

Head Quarters, December 16, 1778.

Sir: Sir Henry Clinton having called for the return of our Officers on parole; You will take the earliest occasion after receipt of this to call for the immediate return of the Convention and other Officers, if any other there be, who have been permitted to go to the Enemy on parole; or for the purpose of being exchanged, if it has not been accomplished by his releasing an equal number required by you; or unless he immediately does it. In your demand of the Convention Officers, you will not include Lieutenant General Burgoyne. Mr. Mercereau who is in these parts, it is probable, can furnish you with a more accurate list of the Convention Officers under the above description, than you may have before received.

As the order for recalling the Convention and Other Officers on parole, is founded on the measures Genl. Clinton has taken with respect to Ours, who had received a like indulgence; if he should countermand his orders for their return, the directions I have given you, concerning the Convention and Other Officers on parole, are to be dispensed with. I am etc.<sup>54</sup>

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53. Commissary General of Prisoners of the Continental Army. Beatty was then at Princeton, N.J.

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54. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

**To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES**

Middle brook December 17, 1778.

Sir: I have to acknowledge your favor of the 23rd. Ult.

General Heath by a letter towards the beginning of last month informed that there were some sick officers and men of the Convention troops, and some officers having families, who could not proceed with the other troops to Charlotte's Ville by a land march; and their going by sea was proposed. I did not think myself authorised to decide in the matter, and therefore referred it to Congress, who have been pleased to direct me to act upon the occasion, as I might judge best. I shall have no objection to your giving permission to the officers and men under the above description, with their attendants to go by sea to the falls of James River, if it should be their choice, as it will be a less fatiguing and a far more expeditious mode of conveyance. From thence they can proceed to the place assigned for their general quarters, without any great difficulty. If they deem a water conveyance eligible, I must request you to obtain an exact return of the officers and men, and the paroles of the former, that the whole will perform the voyage and go to Charlotte's Ville. You will also be pleased to give the necessary passports for

the vessel or vessels they may employ for the purpose. I have detained this answer for some days in expectation that a meeting of Commissioners on our part, and on the part of Sir Henry Clinton to settle an exchange of the Convention prisoners would have precluded the necessity of their voyage. But they have broke up without being able to negotiate the exchange. I am &ca.<sup>60</sup>

[N. Y. H. S.]

**To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE**

Head Quarters, Middle brook, December 17, 1778.

Sir: I inclose you the copies of two letters for your consideration. The one my letter to Mr. Wadsworth on the quantity of provision which he may be able by his utmost exertions to lay in at Albany, and on Connecticut river from No. 4 (or fort Charles) up to the lower Co's inclusively by the first day of February next; and whether he could keep a large army to the Northward regularly

supplied? In his answer you will observe that a principal objection to our supplies being certain is the precariousness of carriage.

Under the idea that the adequate proportion of flour may be obtained for such an army as is supposed in my letter, you will determine, whether it is in your power to give

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60. In the writing of James McHenry. This letter was first drafted (December 4) by Robert Hanson Harrison, and the last paragraph informed of the intended meeting of the exchange commissioners. When redrafted, as above (December 17), the last paragraph was changed.

it a certain and uniform transportation. I shall expect your answer, and am Sir. Your &ca.

P.S. The above letter and its inclosures will serve to afford a more comprehensive view of the subject which I have already mentioned to you.<sup>61</sup>

#### **To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 17, 1778.

Sir: I am glad to find by yours of the 8th. that your Regiment is like to be so well accommodated at Durham. I have never had any representation against its being quartered near that place, neither can I conceive why you can interfere with the provision of Beef for the Army more there than any where else in the State.

Should Congress see a probability that the operations of the next Campaign will require an augmentation of the Cavalry I make no doubt but they will give proper orders to have it done in time; but the prospect of a scarcity of forage is so alarming and the price of Horses so excessive, that I am of opinion they will incline rather to decrease than augment the Cavalry.

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61. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

I have given Mr. Hoogland a letter to the Board of War, and he is gone to Philadelphia to procure such Articles for your Regt. as can be furnished there. I imagine the Uniforms will be ordered from Boston. I am &ca.<sup>62</sup>

**To LIEUTENANT COLONEL EBENEZER STEVENS**

Head Quarters, December 17, 1778.

Sir: I have the pleasure to transmit you the inclosed Commission and the copy of a Resolution of Congress that accompanied it. I received the Letter which inclosed the Commission on my way from Fredericksburgh; but being separated from my papers just after it came to hand, and not getting the Letter again till a day or two ago, I have been prevented from sending the Commission till now.

In consequence of your Commission and the Resolution of Congress, you are to join Colonel Lamb's Regiment and fill the vacancy, occasioned by the Resignation of Lieutt. Colo. Oswald.<sup>63</sup> I am etc.<sup>64</sup>

[N.Y.H.S.]

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62. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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63. On December 18 Washington wrote to Knox that Congress had commissioned Stevens "in the room of Lt Colo. Oswald resigned...you will be pleased to...give the necessary orders on your part." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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64. In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

**To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 17, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have your favr. of the 11th. inclosing a Letter from C—. When I desired an interview with him I did not know his peculiar situation. I now see the danger that so long an absence would incur and I must leave it intirely to you to manage the correspondence in such a manner as will most probably ensure safety to him and answer the desired end. I am &ca.<sup>57</sup>

**To MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 18, 1778.

Dear Sir: I beg you will accept my thanks for your obliging letter of the 30th. Ulto. and the polite expressions of your friendship which accompany it. At the same time, I am happy to congratulate you on your honorable acquittal with the approbation of Congress.<sup>80</sup>

The information and remarks you have favoured me with are very full and satisfactory;<sup>81</sup> and I

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57. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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80. Schuyler's acquittal with honor by the court martial was confirmed by Congress Dec. 3, 1778. (See *Journals of the Continental Congress*.)

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81. Schuyler's letter of November 30 is in the *Washington Papers*. It is a 16-page folio discussion of the proposed Canadian expedition.

must request as you are good enough to promise, that you will continue your reflections and inquiries on the subject, and communicate, from time to time, the result.

The difference of circumstances, which you have enumerated, between the time of General Amhersts operations and the present, is certainly very striking and the difficulties, of an expedition into Canada by the route he took as things are now situated, great and many. The more however I consider the subject and examine into the state of our resources, the more I am convinced that if an expedition is carried into that country, in the course of the next Campaign, it must of necessity be done through that channel. The advantages of penetrating by Lake Champlain, make the practicability of doing it infinitely desirable; but upon the whole, I still am of opinion, that the prospect of effecting it is too small and precarious to warrant the attempt. I could hardly rely upon the success of any expedient that might be adopted to gain the superiority of the Lake in the Summer; and I have greater reason than when I had the pleasure of writing you the 20th. Ulto., to believe, that an undertaking for that purpose this Winter is intirely out of our power. My earnest desire for a Winter expedition has led me closely to investigate our means of prosecuting it, and I find after the fullest examination, from the concurrent and definitive reports of the Quarter Master and Commissary General, that our resources are unequal to the preparations necessary for such an enterprise.

How far it will be in our power to extend our operations into Canada the next campaign must depend on a variety of events which cannot now be foreseen with certainty. It is to be lamented too, that our prospects are not so favourable as we could wish. But I agree with you in the importance of reducing Niagara at least if practicable; and I think it prudent to be taking preparatory measures, to

enable us to attempt this and as much more, as the future situation of our affairs and resources may permit. I am the more induced to this, as the emancipation of Canada is an object, which Congress have much at heart.

Conformable to this principle I have directed the Commissary General to lay in as large magazines of flour and salt provisions &ca. at Albany and any other places which may be thought proper, as he possibly can; and in like manner I have instructed the Quarter Master General to provide all the materials requisite for building vessels, together with forage and every other article, which comes under the direction of his department. A copy of my instructions to him is inclosed.

You will perceive I have referred the Quarter Master General to you for advice and directions in making his arrangements. I have done the same with respect to the Commissary. Every consideration induces me to wish and request your assistance in this business. No person I know

has it more in his power to judge of the measures proper to be taken; and I am persuaded you will readily afford your aid in a matter of so great importance, as far as may be consistent with the situation of your public and personal concerns.

In forming the magazines, I wish regard to be had as far as the primary intention will permit, to an easy transfer and appropriation of them to the use of the army in this quarter; lest our operations to the Northward should be disappointed, and the scene of action still continue in our present front. As a large supply of hard bread will be essential, you will please among other things to direct the Commissary, to provide such a quantity of this article as you deem sufficient. The most speedy and complete repair possible of the arms in the hands of Mr. Rensselaer,<sup>82</sup> will require immediate attention.

Though we cannot now determine what will be the extent of our Northern plan, nor consequently, what number of troops will really be employed; yet as it is necessary to fix some precise idea on this point, by which to regulate our preparations, you will adapt them to an army of at least ten thousand *effective* rank and file, with a proportion of Artillerymen, attendants and retainers of every kind, according to the nature of the expedition.

On account of the difficulty you suggest on transporting the vessels from the place mentioned in my last, my present intention is to have the iron work, rigging, sails &c.,

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82. Philip Van Rensselaer, commissary of military stores at Albany, N. Y.



prepared at Albany, and the Vessels built at Oswego, agreeable to the plan you propose [unless upon a more full considrn. of the matter you shall think the former plan] of building on Hudsons River [can be executed in the whole or part with more ease than at first view.]

It will be of the greatest moment however to employ every artifice to cover the real design, and beget false expectations in the enemy. I leave this to your management.

You will observe by my instructions to the Qr. Mr. Gl. that I have not absolutely decided on the kind of Vessels to be constructed. I wish first to take the opinions of some persons of experience in maritime affairs before I finally determine. With respect to the batteauxs, I leave the construction of them wholly to your judgment, and every direction accordingly.

I shall be under a particular obligation for the journals you mention, if you are fortunate enough to find them.<sup>83</sup>

Before I conclude, there is one or two things in particular, which I must beg you will endeavour to ascertain. Whether, there is not another River below la famine which empties into the St. Lawrence, and what kind of a River it is? I have an idea of one which enters as low as Oswegatchie. Also where the enemy's vessels on Lake Ontario are stationed during the Winter, and how they are defended and secured

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83. A journal, or journals, of Capt. John Montresor and Lieutenant Pauli(?), of the Royal Americans, who traveled to Niagara by way of Presque Isle in 1764; also an account of the inhabitants of Detroit and the strength of the Indians in that quarter in 1764. There has now been placed in the *Washington Papers*, with Schuyler's letter of Dec. 27, 1778, a copy of the "Route from Niagara or Discharge of Lake Erie to the Embouchere of the River of Detroit," giving distances by French leagues, the "Places of safety for all the Boats," the "Number of Indian Warriors that could collect themselves in six or eight days at Detroit," and miscellaneous information of the locations of groups of Indian cabins. The paper is indorsed by Richard Varick "Copy to Montresor's Route." Schuyler did not succeed in finding the Montresor journal.

in the frozen state of the Lake.

It is not unlikely, I may be at Albany in the Month of January. This in the mean time I mean only to be known to you; but I must insist, that you will not suffer it to make the least alteration in your private plans. I am etc.<sup>84</sup>

84. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

**To LIEUTENANT COLONEL HENRY MILLER<sup>85</sup>**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 18, 1778.

Sir: I have your letter of the 21st. Ultimo, now before me.

A good Officer cannot feel more real concern, to find that his domestic affairs, and the circumstances of his family, make it necessary for him to leave the army, than I do myself in losing his services.

I always part reluctantly with the officer, who like you, has been early in the cause, and borne his share of military danger and fatigue; and I cannot help wishing that a continuance in the army could in any wise be made compatible with your domestic duties. But should you find this impossible, I suppose I need not tell you that it is customary, in all cases of resignation, to have a certificate that there is no public or regimental account unsettled. You will be pleased to communicate such a certificate in case you take a conclusive determination to resign. I am etc.<sup>86</sup>

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85. Of the Second Pennsylvania Regiment.

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86. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

**To BARON STEUBEN**

December 19, 1778.

Sir: I had the honor of receiving a few days since your letter of the 6th. instant; I am much obliged to you for the polite assurances you give; and in my turn, I beg you will beleive, that when the institution,<sup>91</sup> at the head of which you have been placed, can once be established upon a footing mutually agreeable to you and to the army, to which end all the measures I have taken in it have been directed, I shall be happy to give you every support in my power to facilitate your operations. In doing this I shall equally consult the personal consideration I have for you, and the improvement and benefit of the army, which I am persuaded will be greatly promoted by a full exertion of the same

talents, experience and activity, of which you have already given the most satisfactory proofs. I am  
etc.<sup>92</sup>

**To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM LEE DAVIDSON<sup>88</sup>**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 19, 1778.

Sir: You are to leave a Captain, two Subs and

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91. Inspector General's Department.

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92. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

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88. Of the Third North Carolina Regiment.

fifty Men of the detachment of Colo. Hogan's<sup>89</sup> Regt. at Trenton and proceed with the remainder to Philadelphia, upon your arrival at which place you are to make report to General Arnold or commanding Officer and take your directions from him. You are to leave word at Trenton for Colo. Hogan to follow with the remainder of the Regt. (except the Captain and fifty who are to guard the Stores at Trenton) to Philada. He is to take with him as many of his sick and Convalescents as possible; those that cannot proceed beyond Trenton must be left either there or at Princetown, with directions to join the Regt. as they recover. Colo. Hogan is also upon his arrival at Philada. to take his orders from Genl. Arnold or commanding Officer. Be pleased to leave a Copy of this letter for him at Trenton. I am etc.<sup>90</sup>

**To MAJOR LEMUEL TRESCOTT<sup>93</sup>**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 19, 1778.

Sir: I am favd. with yours of the 4th. informing me of the date of Major Curtis's<sup>94</sup> resignation agreeable to which I inclose you a Commn. for the Majority of the

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89. Col. James Hogun.

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90. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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93. Of Henley's Additional Continental regiment.

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94. Maj. William Curtis. His resignation took place May 20, 1778.

Regt. from the 20th. May last.

I recd. a letter from the Board of War in Sept. respecting those men of your Regt. who were confined at Easton. I recommended it to them to employ them upon the Works in Delaware rather than let them rejoin the Army as they had shewn so great an inclination to desert to the Enemy. I have not heard since what they did in the matter but will make enquiry. I am &c.<sup>95</sup>

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95. he draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

## **To MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 20, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have your two letters of the 2d and 7th Inst. now before me.

The order communicated by the Adjutant General to Col. Jackson was in consequence of my instructions. It is not however my desire to remove the band in case it has been procured [at the cost of] the officers, and is kept up at their private expence. This is a prerogative I could not think of assuming. But on the other hand, if it belongs to, and is supported by the public, [I shall adhere to my former order], you must [certainly] be of opinion with me that the necessity for such a thing is much greater here than it can be any where else. Under these circumstances, I could wish the matter to be considered; [especially when I add that I can make no distinction in Corps. A Band is no part of our establishmt., to indulge one Regiment therefore and refuse another (equal in pretensions) is setting up invidious distinctions which cannot be productive of any good but may of much evil and ought to be avoided.]

I have been applied to lately by Colo. LeRadiere for the discharge of a certain de Marcere a private in Colo. Angels Regiment. De Marcere it appears inlisted in

the service from necessity. Colo. LeRadiere claims him for a relation, and is much interested in his dismissal. As the Col. is a foreigner and urges it under all these circumstances I have consented to his discharge. You will be pleased to give orders for this purpose, and should the soldier be indebted to the Regiment, you will see by the inclosed paper that Colonel Radiere takes it upon himself. You may transmit the account in your next letter should this be the case. I am &c.

P.S. The 30th. of this Month being prescribed by the honorable Congress as a day of thanksgiving,<sup>99</sup> you will be pleased to have the same observed in the army under your command.<sup>1</sup>

**To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM MAXWELL**

[December 20, 1778.]

Sir: I was favored with your letter of yesterdays date this evening.

I have informed Governor Livingston, with as many of the circumstances of Hatfields<sup>2</sup> case, as have come within my knowledge, and directed Lord Stirling to furnish him with such as he has relating to this subject. You will be pleased, without further delay, to deliver both Hatfield and the vessel

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99. The proclamation of Congress was dated Nov. 17, 1778. (See *Journals of the Continental Congress* of the same date for the text.)

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1. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The parts in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

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2. John Smith Hatfield, loyalist, of Elizabethtown, N. J.

he was in, to the civil magistrate with all the information you are possessed of in the affair, and assist in making what further discoveries may be attainable.

I wish you would ascertain more fully and clearly the cause of the deficiencies in the several articles of clothing, as con. rained in your return. This may be done by a return of the number of Men in the different corps, and a return of the several] articles drawn for each corps.

To prevent as much as possible that intercourse which has been so much complained of, you will refer the applications for flags from the Commissaries of prisoners to me that one general rule of

conduct may be observed in all cases of flags Mr. Mercerer,<sup>3</sup> D.C. Prsrs. has my permission to pass into N. Y.

I have inclosed you full instructions for your observance, and am Sir Your &c.<sup>4</sup>

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3. Joshua Mercereau, Deputy Commissary General of Prisoners.

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4. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

### **To MAJOR THOMAS POSEY<sup>97</sup>**

Middle Brook, December 20, 1778.

Sir: Your presence with the Regt. to which you belong is now necessary, you will therefore on the receipt of this repair here. I have written to the commanding Officer at Albany, if he thinks the corps you command can be spared to order the Troops that compose it to join their respective Regts. of this you will be informed, but you will lose no time in coming yourself. I am &ca.<sup>98</sup>

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97. Of the Seventh Virginia Regiment. He was made lieutenant colonel in September, 1782; transferred to the First Virginia Regiment in January, 1783; retired in March, 1783; brigadier general, U.S. Army, February, 1793; resigned in February, 1794.

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98. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

Washington forwarded this letter to Posey, through Brig. Gen. James Clinton, in a short note of this same date (December 20) in which he expressed a desire to have the ranger corps, to which Posey had been detailed, disbanded, if its services could be dispensed with and the detachments composing it returned to their respective regiments, "but this is left for yourself to decide according to the occasion you may see for detaining it. I am however anxious it should take place." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

### **To LORD STIRLING**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, December 21, 1778.

My Lord: I have directed General Maxwell to deliver up Hatfield to the Civil Authority and have informed Governor Livingston that you will furnish him with such proofs of his Guilt as have come to your Knowledge. be pleased therefore to forward such papers to him as you have at present in possession, or any new matter which you may hereafter obtain and which may serve to throw light upon the Affair. I am etc.<sup>7</sup>

[H.S.P.]

## **To LORD STIRLING**

December 21, 1778.

Sir: Congress having been pleased to require my attendance at Philadelphia<sup>8</sup> for a few days, the immediate command of the troops at this place will devolve upon your Lordship.

The hutting the troops in the most speedy and commodious manner, and the preservation of order and discipline, I doubt not will receive your Lordship's particular

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7. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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8. "As I am under the necessity of going to Philada. for a few days, you are during my Absence to pay off the Regimental Abstracts for the Month of October and those for any Months previous thereto. I will sign the warrants upon my Return. In the meantime this shall be your Authority."— *Washington to Asst. Paymaster Gen. John Pierce*, Dec. 21, 1778. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

attention. I must request that you will, as much as possible avoid granting furloughs to officers, except in the manner and proportion heretofore specified in General orders, and will not deviate but where the circumstances of the case are of a very peculiar and pressing nature. The frequency of applications on this head induces me to particularise the caution.

Your Lordship will give me the earliest intelligence, of any thing of consequence that may happen.<sup>9</sup>

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9. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM MAXWELL**

Middle Brook, December 21, 1778.

You are appointed to the command at Elizabeth Town at which place you are to remain with the New Jersey Brigade: But should you be of opinion that the troops can be more conveniently quartered by removing part to New Ark, you may order a Regiment or as many to that place as circumstances shall require.

The principal object of your position is to prevent the Enemy stationed upon Staten Island from making incursions upon the main and also to prevent any traffic between them and the inhabitants. In this respect I must request you to be very vigilant and to use your utmost exertions as great complaints have been made of a trade's being carried on so openly and to such a height, as to alarm and give great umbrage to the well affected. I am informed that considerable quantities of provision are carried over to and goods brought from Staten Island thro' Woodbridge and Raway Necks, you will therefore either keep patrols or post small parties upon that quarter, as you shall judge most expedient and likely to prevent such intercourse.

You are to pay particular attention to my former order directing you not to suffer any persons inhabitants of the United States to go within the Enemy's

lines, without they produce a written licence from Congress the Governors or legislative Authorities to which they belong or from myself, a great part of the illicit traffic complained of having been carried on by persons who under various pretences have gained permission to go to Staten Island, or New York.

As the good order and discipline of the troops will in a great measure depend upon a proper number of Officers remaining in quarters with them you will observe the following Rule in granting Furloughs as far as circumstances will admit.

Two Field Officers to remain with a Regimt. and two Commissioned Officers with a Company. Not more than twenty Soldiers to be absent from a Regiment on Furlough at one time.

You will be careful to see that the Brigade Inspector puts in practice the Manœuvres and discipline introduced the last Campaign, as often as the State of the Weather will permit during the Winter.

The difficulty of procuring Forage for even those Horses of which there is real occasion, renders it absolutely necessary that none others be kept in the Brigade but by the Field and Staff Officers intitled thereto; for the Artillery, and for the Waggons employed in Garrison duties.



The supernumerary Horses belonging to the public to be delivered to the Dy. Qr. M. Genl. who will dispose of them in such places as will be most convenient for

their accommodation.<sup>10</sup>

## INSTRUCTIONS TO COLONEL THOMAS CLARK

Middle Brooke, December 21, 1778.

You are, agreeable to my orders of the 4th. instant,<sup>11</sup> to take post this Winter with the Brigade under you command at Paramus. You are to quarter the Men in as compact a manner as possible both for the preservation of discipline and the conveniency of drawing your force speedily together in case of an Alarm. Your position is intended to effect three purposes: to cover the communication to Kings Ferry, to afford countenance and protection to the well affected inhabitants of Bergen County and to be within supporting distance of the Posts in the Highlands. The more effectually to secure the communication to Kings Ferry, you are constantly to keep a Captain and fifty Men at Kakiate which is the junction of several Roads leading to the North River and a place much infested by the Banditti of the Country. The Officer is therefore to see that his Men are in their quarters at Night and their Arms always within their reach.

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10. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On December 21 Washington also wrote a brief note to Maxwell directing him to allow Lieut. William Campbell, of the Twenty-fourth Foot, British Army, and Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General, British Army in America, to go into New York by flag and when he returns to send him under the escort of an officer to Major General Phillips. This note is in the *Washington Papers*.

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11. See Washington's letter to Col. Thomas Clark, December 4-7, under Dec. 7, 1778, *ante*.

A succession of small scouting parties down towards Bergen and along the North River will be preferable in my opinion to stationary pickets, as they will not be liable to surprise and will be more likely to fall in with marauders from the enemy and with those of the inhabitants who make a practice of supplying the enemy with provision. They will moreover, if they do their duty, prevent you from any danger by surprise. But this I leave to your own Judgment.

You are to pay particular attention to that part of my instructions of the 4th. in which you are directed not to permit any inhabitant of the States of Jersey or New York to go within the Enemy's lines without they obtain a licence specified under the hand of their respective Governors.

The third object, that of supporting the posts in the Highlands is the most material and what you are, next to your own preservation principally to attend to. Should you receive information that the Enemy are moving up the North River in force, you are instantly to send advice to General McDougal, and fall back with the Troops to Suffarans at the entrance of the Clove, giving him information of your removal and acting afterwards agreeable to his directions. You will in such case send your Baggage to Pompton for its security....<sup>12</sup>

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12. The omitted portion is a repetition of the instructions to Maxwell (the preceding document) from "As the establishment of good order etc." through "State of the Weather will permit."

And you are above all things to attend to the Behaviour of the Troops and punish severely marauding or any kind of insult or damage to the persons or properties of the Inhabitants.<sup>13</sup>

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13. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

## **To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM**

Philadelphia, December 26, 1778.

Dear Sir: I recd. your favr. of the 17th. at this place, at which I shall remain but a few days and then return to Middle Brook. I am pleased to think that your troops will have been covered before this severe Weather.

A plan for the establishment and regulation

of the Inspectorship, is now under consideration of Congress, I would not therefore have you appoint a division Inspector at this time, but let the Brigade Inspectors go on with their duties as usual. I have no objection to Colo. Meigs's executing the Office of Dy. Adj. General. I have no power to make any appointments in the Qr. Master General department, neither do I know whether, by the present regulations, division Quarter Masters are allowed. You must therefore apply to General Greene if any thing is wanting that relates to his Office.

I have not a Copy of your instructions with me, but if my memory serves me, I was as full in my directions respecting the conduct of Officers who shall be sent upon the lines as I possibly can be. The Officer must determine from all circumstances, whether Cattle or any species of provision found near the lines are in danger of falling into the hands of the Enemy, or are carried there with an intent to supply them. If it is thought necessary to bring them off, they must be reported and disposed of as directed by your instructions. I was very particular upon that Head, because I know that great Acts of injustice have been committed by Officers, under pretence that provision and other kinds of property were intended for the Use of the Enemy. I would recommend the bringing off as much Forage as possible but I would not advise the destruction of what we cannot remove. I think your plan of sending out a large party under the command of a Field

Officer and making detachments from thence, a good one; and if you and General Mcdougall can agree upon a cooperation of your parties I think many advantages will result from the measure. You may agree upon the mode of effecting this, between yourselves.

If a repetition of the insults, to the permission of the Governor of New York for exporting Flour, should be again offered, the Commissaries should lodge a Complaint with the Governor agt. the offenders, who I make no doubt will take proper steps to prevent such practices.

The Board of War are to issue the Commissions when the Lists of Officers included in the arrangement are compleated. I am &ca.<sup>21</sup>

## **To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM MAXWELL**

Philadelphia, December 26, 1778.

Sir: You will be pleased to transmit the inclosed Letter to Colo. Butler by a flag. This Gentleman has requested an interview with Genl. Lee, who is to meet him. A House near Elizabeth Town point is thought most convenient for the meeting, and has been proposed to them both. Colo. Butler is to appoint the time and to inform you, of which you will advise General

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21. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Lee and furnish any passports that may be necessary upon the occasion. General Lee it is probable will be at Elizabeth Town before you receive the notice, or on the way. I am etc.<sup>22</sup>

**To LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN TEMPLE**

Philadelphia, December 27, 1778.

Sir: I recd. your favor of the 12th. at this place, where I shall remain a few days upon Business and then return to Middle Brook. I hope you have, by your own exertions and the Assistance of the Quarter Master, got your Men and Horses well accommodated by this time.

The Resolve of Congress being very express and extending only to the reinlistment of the old<sup>25</sup> Men of the Regiment, I would have you countermand your former orders and direct the recruiting Officers to attend to the reinlistment of them only. Should Congress think proper to alter their Resolution hereafter, I make no doubt but Men may be got for the service of the Cavalry, especially as they are put upon the same footing in respect to the high state Bounties with the Infantry. I am &ca.<sup>26</sup>

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22. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

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25. That is, former service men, the veterans.

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26. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

**To MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER**

Philadelphia, December 31, 1778.

Dear Sir: In a letter which I had the pleasure of writing you the 18th. Inst. I requested you to take the direction of the magazines &c. which were to be prepared towards a certain expedition. I should have extended the idea to your taking the full command in the Northern department; but I was restrained by a doubt how far the measure might be agreeable to your own views and intentions. The same doubt still remains, but as it is very much my desire you should resume that command, I take occasion to signify it to you; at the same time, if you have any material objections against it, I would not wish to preclude their operation. If you have not, you will be pleased to consider this as an order for the purpose.<sup>43</sup>

As you are fully acquainted with all the objects of the command, it is unnecessary to enter into a detail of particular instructions.

In a letter I have received from General Clinton, he conveys a request from Major Whiting,<sup>44</sup> of Aldens regiment to have the regiment releived. I have informed him that the matter is referred to you. You will best judge whether the situation of that regiment and the good of the service will make it proper to comply with the request. He also transmits a

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43. Schuyler replied (Jan. 25, 1779), confirming his resignation and declined Washington's offer of the command. Schuyler's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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44. Maj. Daniel Whiting, of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment.

recommendation from Major Whiting for promoting Lt. Jonas Parker.<sup>45</sup> If there are any vacancies in the regiment which require to be filled up, a particular state of them, of the periods they commenced, and the officers intitled to succeed, ought to be made out and transmitted to the Board of War. I am etc.<sup>46</sup>

#### **To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON**

Philadelphia, December 31, 1778.

Sir: I have been favoured with your Letter of the 5th. Inst. and with your's and Genl. Hand's of the 28th. Ulto. The one you mention of the 20th. never came to hand.

As the impediments which suspended General Schuyler from command are now removed by an Honorable acquittal. I have written him a line upon the subject of his resuming it, in the Department where he now is for the present. If this event takes place, you will 'till some new arrangement or disposition is made, consider yourself under his directions, and receive orders from him accordingly.

With respect to Major Whiting's application to

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45. Capt.-Lieut. Jonas Parker, of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. He was made captain in July, 1779, and dismissed in January, 1781.

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46. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

be releived. I have mentioned the matter to General Schuyler, and he will give such orders about it as circumstances will permit and justify. I have also mentioned to him the case of Lt. Jonas Parker, and requested him to obtain a state of the Officers of the Regiment, of the vacancies and the periods when they happened, and to transmit it to the Board of War who are to issue all Commissions in future.

I always hear of capital executions with concern, and regret that there should occur so many instances in which they are necessary. Aaron Williams appears to have deserved the fate he met with, and the service, from the number of desertions you mention in the York line, to have pointed to his early punishment. I am etc.<sup>47</sup>

[M.L.]

**To LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN FLOWER<sup>48</sup>**

Philadelphia, December 31, 1778.

Sir: I am favd. with yours of this date. I wish I was sufficiently acquainted with Circumstances, to enable me to give you such a Certificate as would fully answer your purposes; but when you reflect that little or no part of the conduct of your

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47. In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

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48. Commissary General of Military Stores of the Continental Army.

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Office has come under my immediate Notice, you must see the impropriety of my undertaking to vouch for the regular discharge of your duty or to affix an adequate salary or Commn. to the transaction of a Business of which I am by no means a competent Judge. If I am not mistaken, your department has been newly arranged and put upon a different and more extensive footing than it was when you received your Commn. at Morris Town. As you have been since chiefly under the direction and Controal of the Board of War and Ordnance, they must of course be the best Judges of your Merits as an Officer, and of the proper compensation for your trouble, risque of disbursing large sums of public Money, and the expences necessarily attendant upon your Business. I am etc.<sup>49</sup>

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49. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

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